United Nations S/PV.6176

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6176th meeting

Tuesday, 4 August 2009, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Sir John Sawers	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Tiendrébéogo
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Japan	Mr. Okuda
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lukiyantsev
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United States of America	Ms. Rice
	Viet Nam	Mr. Bui The Giang

Agenda

Children and armed conflict

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09-43956 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of August 2009, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to our Ugandan colleagues for their service in the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July 2009. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing great admiration for the way in which Ambassador Rugunda and his team conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Children and armed conflict

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Canada, Chile, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and to Mr. Louis-Georges Arsenault, Director of the Office of Emergency Programmes at the United Nations Children's Fund.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/399, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by 46 Member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, the Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Uruguay.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

in favour:

Austria, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Russian Federation, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1882 (2009).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the voting.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Since this is the first meeting of the Security Council under the current presidency of the United Kingdom, allow me to warmly congratulate you, Ambassador Sawers, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of August. I am certain that you will have

excellent memories of your time on the Security Council in your future career. I would also like to express to Ambassador Ruhakana Rugunda and his team from the delegation of Uganda our thanks and recognition for their excellent work during the month of July.

In my capacity as Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, and in my national capacity, I am very pleased to be able to take the floor now that the Security Council has unanimously adopted resolution 1882 (2009), by which it reaffirms its unequivocal commitment to the protection of children in situations of armed conflict. This is a new, significant step by the United Nations for the protection of children.

With this resolution, the Security Council is sending a very clear political signal that the obligations imposed by international law on the parties to an armed conflict with regard to the safety, security and well-being of children must be respected, with no exceptions whatsoever.

Resolution 1882 (2009) is a fundamental step forward in the agenda for the protection of children. By broadening the criteria whereby parties to an armed conflict can be included in the reports that Secretary-General presents annually on this issue. In this way, the responsibility of the parties who, in contravention of international law, commit murder and maiming as well as rape and other forms of sexual violence against children can be considered by the Security Council.

Closely linked to the previous point, the resolution deals with major aspects inherent in the broadening of criteria, especially for the preparation of plans of action that are directed at putting an end to the practices of recruitment, killing, maiming and sexual violence. Likewise, in order to fight impunity, the resolution calls on States to take action to bring to national and international justice the perpetrators of crimes against children in situations of armed conflict.

The resolution contributes to transparency by asking the Secretary-General to make public the criteria and procedures used for listing and de-listing in his reports parties to conflicts that commit these crimes and by asking that timely information be exchanged with the Governments concerned through his Special Representative.

For all these reasons, resolution 1882 (2009) is a formidable tool for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNICEF, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations monitoring teams and other actors, such as non-governmental organizations, which, on a daily basis, carry out their tireless work to improve the situation of children in many regions of the world. All of this will enhance the image and credibility of our Organization.

This resolution fulfils the commitment made by the Security Council during the Mexican presidency in April to take concrete action within three months to address the killing and maiming as well as rape and other forms of sexual violence committed against children.

In that regard, we can say that resolution 1882 (2009) is the most relevant development in this area since 2005, when the Security Council adopted resolution 1612 (2005), which created the monitoring and reporting mechanism and the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

It is clear that in the past few years the Security Council has made substantial progress on this agenda. Nevertheless, we must also recognize that there is still much left to be done if we want children never again to fall victim to the spiral of violence that armed conflicts generate.

When assuming the great responsibility of chairing the Working Group, Mexico knew that we would need the will of all members of the Security Council if we were to achieve the objective of improving the protection of children in situations of armed conflict. In this framework, the initiative adopted today is a substantial contribution on which Mexico had the privilege of leading the collective effort of the members of this Council. I wish to express my personal thanks to the group of experts that undertook this task. I wish also to express my deep appreciation to the Office of the Special Representative, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, and to UNICEF, for their tireless support and counsel.

I wish to conclude by acknowledging, on behalf of my delegation, the support given by all members of the Security Council to this resolution, and by acknowledging the large number of States Members of the United Nations that joined in sponsoring it.

The President: I thank the representative of Mexico for his and his delegation's leadership on this important issue in the Council.

Mr. Urbina (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): I do not wish to let this opportunity pass, Mr. President, without extending my cordial congratulations to you and your Mission. I wish you the very best as you assume the presidency. You can count on our cooperation.

I should also like to thank Ambassador Rugunda and the entire Ugandan delegation for their very successful leadership of our work in July.

More than a decade has passed since the Security Council first considered the issue of children and armed conflict. Since then, six resolutions have been adopted. In various ways, the decision to strengthen the framework for the protection of children in conflict situations has been enacted in deed. The adoption of resolution 1882 (2009) significantly strengthens that framework and broadens the mechanisms provided for in resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005).

The inclusion of two new criteria or triggers — sexual violence and killing and maiming — is testimony to the Security Council's resolve to respond effectively to the two most serious and frequently committed crimes against children in situations of armed conflict. We must continue to expand that progressive focus, while avoiding the establishment of artificial hierarchies.

The resolution addresses two issues to which Costa Rica attaches importance. We stress the need to improve communication and the exchange of information between the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and the sanctions committees, as well as the importance of making the issue of children an integral part of reports on situations in specific countries. Of equal importance are the calls to follow up on the recommendations of the Working Group; the fight against impunity and referrals of cases to international justice, when necessary; and the call for timely and sustained response in the rehabilitation of children affected by conflict.

Effective progress based on the resolution we have just adopted will depend on the performance of some important tasks. The first involves the implementation of action plans, which may be the most useful tool in attaining tangible results. Unfortunately, in many cases no such plans have been elaborated; in other cases, they have not been adopted. Costa Rica therefore welcomes the call for the consistent implementation of action plans and the information we are to receive on progress made in that respect. We also trust that such plans will henceforth include a component for the provision of comprehensive and sustained treatment to the victims of rape.

We also believe that the technology support of the Secretariat is necessary. It will help to systematize the information provided to the Working Group and to consolidate the historic memory of recommendations to the parties. This is an indispensable follow-up and accountability mechanism for the assessment and evaluation of the actions needed for compliance, especially with respect to repeated offenders.

The time is also ripe for improving the monitoring and reporting mechanism in order to make it more useful in the identification of trends and patterns of violations, and in the promotion of a strategic vision of possible solutions. Finally, we believe it necessary to establish objective criteria and procedures for inclusion on and exclusion from the annexed lists in the Secretary-General's reports, which will guarantee transparency, objectivity and consistency.

Before concluding, my delegation wishes to recognize the work undertaken by the delegation of Mexico to reach the agreements that allowed us to adopt this instrument of protection. We also thank all the members of the Working Group for their constructive attitude during negotiations, and Ms. Coomaraswamy and UNICEF for the support they provided to us. Similarly, on behalf of the Human Security Network, which Costa Rica will chair until May 2010, we welcome the conclusion of the process leading to today's adoption of resolution 1882 (2009). The protection of children in armed conflict has been a priority issue for the Human Security Network since its establishment.

The President: I thank the representative of Costa Rica for his kind words addressed to me.

There are no further speakers on my list. On behalf of the entire Security Council, I thank those who have been closely involved with this agenda item — the Ambassador of Mexico, Ms. Coomaraswamy, and the staff and leadership of UNICEF — for their important work on this dossier.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.

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Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1830 (2008) (S/2009/393).

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09-43962 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1830 (2008) (S/2009/393)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Iraq, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al Bayati (Iraq) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ad Melkert, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Melkert to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/2009/393, which contains the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1830 (2008).

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Ad Melkert, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Melkert: I thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to address the Council. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for the confidence he has bestowed upon me, with the Security Council's support, to lead a mission as crucial as the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is to contributing to the future of the Iraqi people and to stability in the world.

My recent brief introductory visit to Baghdad confirmed the sense of strong determination guiding the Iraqi Government and the spirit of utmost dedication motivating all United Nations staff in their joint efforts to promote hope and progress. I feel a sense of purpose, as well as a great weight of responsibility to add my part to these efforts.

Allow me on this particular occasion to somewhat reserve my views on the country situation as it stands and on the United Nations action to come. First and foremost, I would like to benefit from the Council's guidance and engage in intensive interaction with all relevant partners in Iraq and the wider region. The two occasions that I have had to meet with Prime Minister Al-Maliki have been important to my understanding of the Government's immediate priorities. I am grateful to my predecessor, Staffan de Mistura, for his able leadership, his handover and his characteristic frankness in sharing his experiences and insights.

From all sides in Iraq I heard the same message — this is not only an unparalleled moment of opportunity, but also one of great sensitivity. There are many factors, some internal, some external, that could still tip the scale.

On the one hand, there is a new sense of optimism and energy spreading, with many Iraqis determined not just to have reclaimed their country's sovereignty but to mobilize the full responsibilities of sovereignty in order to deliver economic and social reforms, pursue political consensus and normalize regional relationships. Iraq's national pride was evident for the world to see as the Iraqi security forces reclaimed full responsibility on 30 June for the protection of Iraq's cities. The Government and people of Iraq truly had reason to celebrate this occasion.

On the other hand, the new situation invokes new responsibilities. Although statistics tell the story of a downward trend in the overall level of violence, reality is still tainted by an unacceptably high level of

indiscriminate attacks on civilians. The coming period will be a true challenge for the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi security forces; they must show skill and determination to gain the trust of the population and to respect fundamental human rights. The United Nations will continue to monitor facts and, it is to be hoped, further progress.

The initiative to embark on the preparation of a long-term National Development Plan is one good example of a new mindset for governance, which will give direction not just to Iraq's own national priorities and budgeting, but also to international partners seeking to invest in Iraq's future. Of course, socio-economic reforms can bear fruit only in a climate of political consensus. There have been some promising moves in this direction. The establishment of the High-level Task Force in the wake of the comprehensive United Nations report on the so-called disputed internal boundaries provides a much-needed framework for ongoing engagement on an issue that will require everyone's constructive effort and patience, as well as a keen awareness that only through peaceful resolution can long-term stability and progress in the area be sustained.

The recent elections for the Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament offer a renewed opportunity to resume constructive engagement on outstanding issues. On the basis of the provisional results, I congratulate the people of the Kurdistan region on an impressive turnout of 77 per cent and a peaceful electoral process. I hope that a mutually respectful dialogue between the main actors — particularly the Kurdistan Democratic Party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Change List — will now seek to translate this positive start into a cohesive and truly representative regional Government. With the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission, we will assess the electoral process against the generally accepted standards that are constantly being promoted as part of UNAMI's mandate.

On balance, there are grounds for cautious optimism. It should particularly be noted that the Iraqi people have shown persistent restraint and dignity in the face of often unpredictable and vicious attacks in deliberate attempts to throw Iraq off its current course. This shows just how far out of step the attackers are with national sentiment. For the Iraqi Government, it remains a formidable task to provide reassurance to the people that their Government can protect them and that returning to the normal life they seek is still on track.

Against the backdrop of these trends, I would like to submit that the time has come to place economic and social conditions up front. With one third of Iraq's young people unemployed, a significant budget deficit combined with debt service and compensation obligations, drought and agricultural underperformance and the reluctance of investors to step in, there is a strong case for joining forces to invest in the productivity and social cohesion of the country as a whole. Eventually, progress should not only be measured at the level of political authorities but also be tangible for Iraqis in their jobs, schools, hospitals and homes. This should also guide the United Nations Mission more and more effectively.

Therefore, I see it as my principal task to bring all United Nations organizations and staff together for the purpose of delivering as one through the integrated Mission in order to serve Iraq and the international community in the most effective way. I would also like to promote closer alignment with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to strengthen our common cause.

I would like to align myself with my predecessor in underscoring the importance of the broad mandate provided by this Council through resolution 1770 (2007). Coming from a far distance, the United Nations has increasingly embarked on the expanded mandate, empowered to become an essential, impartial factor in peacebuilding inside Iraq. In particular, we have been able to provide a thinking pause for all stakeholders on contentious issues, construct a framework for dialogue and foster the skills needed to help move Iraq towards the socio-economic revival it wants and needs. This should continue to guide United Nations actions, while more than ever before gearing our focus towards translating political progress into tangible benefits for the many Iraqis still struggling in their daily lives.

Now, as the multinational forces draw down and international partners are tending to wait and see, we have to resist the temptation to take on too much. To be successful, the United Nations should base its actions on Iraqi ownership, selectivity in priorities and the nexus between national reconciliation and economic development. Allow me to briefly highlight the main areas of focus.

All the evidence shows that Iraq's healthy future will depend on the diversification of its economy, on creating jobs for young people, on better services for its citizens and on the stronger capacities of those who seek to deliver them. These are goals that cannot wait for political consensus; rather, they can become a platform for consensus.

The global financial crisis and oil price volatility have hit Iraq hard, decimating its revenues almost to 2003 levels and challenging its future capital budget. At the same time, indispensable systemic reforms have been slow, fragmented or absent. Managing oil and gas contracts, building on a few promising recent results, remains key. Yet a shift from the current oil-dependent economy towards a healthy private sector that encourages entrepreneurship and international investment is central to stability and growth. Large-scale programmes to stimulate the private sector and modernize Iraq's public sector are in preparation or under way. These and further support activities will be core priorities for an integrated UNAMI. The Government of Iraq has requested that particular attention be paid to the management of its agriculture and internal water resources in order to try to halt the damage caused by the tragic shrinking of its rivers.

The main vehicle for our assistance will be Iraq's five-year National Development Plan, due to start next year, on which we are already closely cooperating with the Government. We welcome the intention for the National Development Plan to refocus Iraq towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, tailored to the Iraqi context, in order to deliver on basic social, economic and development rights.

It will be my priority to ensure that our development support, as a United Nations family, is fully aligned with the National Development Plan. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2011-2014 will be based on the priorities of the National Development Plan, with an emphasis on capacity-building; a final draft will be completed by the end of the year. That will enable the Government to co-sign after the January 2010 national elections, moving the United Nations and Iraq into a true economic support and social development partnership.

Over time, that should enable the United Nations humanitarian programme to shift focus, moving away from emergency appeals towards more comprehensive support to poor and vulnerable communities, expanding beyond Iraq's displaced populations. We can create conditions for return only by restoring jobs and services where conflict and poverty have undermined them and by fostering a climate of human rights and social healing.

Having said that, there are those for whom humanitarian needs are still dire, specifically communities decimated by years of conflict and a number of Iraq's over 3 million internally and externally displaced. The United Nations consolidated appeal for 2009 was only 33 per cent funded for activities in-country by July, and needs for support to returnee families have since increased by over $100 million. I thank the Member States that have provided support so far and hope that more will be forthcoming to fill that gap.

As a necessary precondition for long-term stability, we will have to continue to work to bring to term those reconciliation processes already under way that are essential to internal consensus and stability. Two of the most critical priorities within the Mission will be preparations for the national elections in 2010 and resolution on Iraq's disputed areas through the High-level Task Force.

On the former, we are continuing to work alongside the Independent High Electoral Commission to strengthen the legitimacy of the electoral process. An update of Iraq's national voter list, planned for August, is an essential factor. In addition, we will continue to advise on the technical aspects of future electoral events.

Our work on Iraq's disputed areas will follow the path set by the reports on the disputed internal boundaries, the High-level Task Force and the article 23 committee in Kirkuk, which continues to receive extensive technical support from UNAMI. Dialogue rather than precipitous decision-making should be the method to disentangle complex and sensitive facts and perceptions. With the Council's support, the United Nations remains well placed to be the impartial connector between interests that may differ in many ways, but are also part of a common heritage.

Progress on deadlocked constitutional issues, such as revenue sharing and the hydrocarbon law, are inextricably linked to those initiatives on national reconciliation. An open door on one issue would naturally lead to doors unlocking on several others, and

UNAMI will continue to strive for that type of chain reaction.

The scope for progress will be greatly enhanced by a display of constructive neighbourliness by all of Iraq's partners. An important conditioning area of focus for our work will be to further open the door to engagement on issues that still challenge Iraq's relationship with its neighbours. The normalization of Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations remains a priority. I am grateful for the Council's interest in advancing the completion of outstanding requirements in relation to resolution 1859 (2008). Lasting confidence on both sides would be a major cornerstone of a new regional understanding of the huge potential of the mutual benefits that are within reach. Assisting Iraq to regain its rightful place among the community of nations, as stated by the Secretary-General in his recent report on resolution 1859 (2008) (S/2009/385), lies at the heart of our Mission.

We also look forward to pursuing promising dialogue on cross-border initiatives that will boost regional confidence and cooperation, such as border demining and border security. Integration into the regional economy is crucial to Iraq's internal development, including reaching agreements on the export of oil and gas and on the management of the region's dwindling water resources.

Iraq is also at a unique point in its history as it comes to terms with its commitment, as a partner in the international community, to the fundamental principles of human rights. Those are a promise to the people who have suffered long and deeply and still rightfully aspire to more. Neither true reconciliation nor true development can be built in their absence. The United Nations focus will be on improving Iraq's own capacity in that area to secure the legal and constitutional rights of its citizens and to foster a climate of respect for human rights as a way of rebuilding trust in institutions and rule of law.

While it works towards normalization, this is most certainly not the time for the international community to disengage on Iraq or to lessen its commitment. I hope that the United Nations can lead the way towards a new global partnership on Iraq that reflects Iraq's current reality and preserves the gains of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq as it approaches closure. The balance between Iraq and its international partners is shifting towards fewer capital-intensive investments and more loans, growth-related investment and technical expertise. That is a natural alternative to direct development aid to a country that, oil price fluctuations aside, has ample resources. It should not, however, be a precursor to losing interest. Iraqis would not understand, and the global interest would not be served.

There is, I think, a common understanding that any future formula for international engagement with Iraq should emerge from Iraq's own vision for recovery, reconciliation and development. The International Compact with Iraq has to date been critical to linking Iraqi and international priorities. It may now be time for the next stage — one more naturally integrated into the National Development Plan, with Iraq itself clearly in the lead.

We have an ambitious programme of action before us. To achieve it, we are committed to increasing our presence and visibility in Iraq, particularly through United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. This month, we will mark the sixth anniversary of the attack that cost and scarred the lives of Sergio Vieira de Mello and many other friends and colleagues who only wanted to stand by the Iraqi people. Both Iraq and the United Nations Mission have come a long way since that time. We now have to build on the momentum.

It will be a considerable management challenge to align the ambition to be more present and more effective with maintaining paramount attention to staff safety. With Iraq's Government, we will also work towards a more self-reliant operational approach in terms of our security and logistics. Unfortunately, that will inevitably require a great deal of human and financial resources. We will continue to assess the situation and to adjust our policy as necessary or possible. Suffice it to say that the adequacy of funding of that part of the Mission, including through commensurate contributions from agencies, funds and programmes, defines the scope of our outreach. We continue to count on Member States for their support in that regard.

In closing, the theme that I would prefer to stress at this early juncture is strategic acceleration, building on progress in the political sphere and throwing our full support behind economic growth and social development benefiting the people, in partnership and constant consultation with Iraqis themselves.

We often talk of ordinary Iraqis as the litmus test for recovery, but even over these few short weeks, I have come to think of them as extraordinary Iraqis. These families held firm to a belief in the greatness of their country throughout the most testing times. An overwhelming majority show high motivation to help the tree of democracy take root in Iraq, with the expectation that the fruits of democracy will follow: that jobs will be available, streets will be clean, schools revitalized and communities safe. We in the United Nations share that motivation. I can promise them that we will do all in our power over the coming months to gear ourselves towards this challenge.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Al Bayati (Iraq): Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I would like to also offer our thanks to your predecessor, His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Uganda, for his distinguished efforts during his presidency in the month of July. Our sincere congratulations and appreciation also go to Mr. Ad Melkert as he assumes the post of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and to the team of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), in Iraq and in New York, for their tireless work in assisting the Government and the people of Iraq.

Having reviewed the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMI's work in Iraq (S/2009/393), my delegation would like to present the following comments.

I turn first to political and security matters. The date 30 June 2009 represented a historic day for the Iraqi people, as it witnessed the withdrawal of United States forces from Iraqi cities in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement signed by the Governments of the Republic of Iraq and the United States of America. Under that agreement, Iraqi forces assumed command of 150 military bases formerly under American control in various parts of Iraq.

The withdrawal of United States forces from Iraqi cities initiates a new stage in Iraqi-United States relations, which will focus on economic, cultural and social areas rather than solely on political and security issues, thereby building a strategic partnership contributing to the accomplishment of mutual interests.

The day 25 July 2009 witnessed the elections to the Kurdistan parliament as well as the election of the President of the Kurdistan region, Mr. Massoud Barzani, which took place in an atmosphere of transparency in the presence of international observers. These elections followed the provincial elections held earlier in the rest of the country, indicating the unity of the Iraqi provinces in their commitment to the democratic process and the expression of the Iraqi people's will to choose their representatives.

Iraq today is a democratic State that respects freedoms and is governed by a constitution. The principle of peaceful rotation of power forms the basis of an open and transparent political process. All Iraqi political forces operate within that process and rely on constructive dialogue to reach all important agreements, including on the key issues of building a federal system, legislation on the distribution of natural resources, constitutional amendments and internally disputed borders. We are confident that this cooperation will lead to a political settlement resolving most of these issues and will preserve the gains achieved through the political process.

The security situation in Iraq has continued to improve since Iraqi security forces received security responsibility from the American forces. The abilities of the Iraqi forces in Iraqi cities were tested for the first time during the annual pilgrimage of millions of visitors from around the country to the Khadhimain shrine in Baghdad, which took place peacefully and without incident. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the United States Government and the American troops, as well as the Governments and troops of other friendly countries, for their ongoing efforts and commitment to promoting security and democracy in Iraq.

The improved security situation has facilitated the Iraqi Government's central plan encouraging the return of displaced Iraqis to their country. Mr. L. Craig Johnstone, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, recently stated that "the security in Iraq is encouraging the return of Iraqi refugees to their country". During the past few months, 1,030 Iraqi refugees from Syria, 449 from Jordan, 980 from Egypt, 111 from Yemen and 506 from Lebanon have returned to Iraq.

The Iraqi people's enjoyment of their constitutional rights is fundamental to the ongoing

political process. In this context, the Ministry of Interior has dismissed more than 60,000 employees accused of corruption and has decided to try 40 police officers accused of violations in prisons.

On 2 August 2009, the Iraqi Prime Minister, Mr. Nuri al-Maliki, began a visit to Kurdistan, where he met with both Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and the President of the Kurdistan region, Mr. Massoud Barzani, to work together to resolve the pending issues between the central Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan region.

I turn now to social and economic issues. With the direct sponsorship of the Prime Minister, Mr. Nuri al-Maliki, on 29 June 2009 the Iraqi Government received the first round of offers for service contracts for Iraq's oil and gas fields. The Prime Minister stressed that the Government will grant all possible facilities to companies that win the initial oil licenses. This first round represents a significant turn in the reconstruction process. An open and transparent investment of oil resources will serve the interests of the Iraqi people after decades of ineffective oil investment policies under the former regime. Oil exports increased to 1.923 million barrels a day during the month of June 2009. The Iraqi Government is working to increase oil exports to 2.15 million barrels a day in 2010.

As part of the Iraqi Government's ongoing efforts for the reconstruction of Iraq, the Iraqi Council of Ministers has approved a comprehensive plan to reconstruct the service sector and infrastructure with an estimated budget of approximately $65 billion. Under this plan, the housing sector will be allocated 38 per cent of the budget, the agricultural sector 27 per cent, the transportation sector 14.2 per cent, the water and sanitation sector 8.4 per cent, the education sector 8.5 per cent, the health sector 5.7 per cent and the communications sector 0.9 per cent.

The Iraqi Government and the World Health Organization have organized a working group on the role of the media in responding to the pandemic of swine flu (H1N1). A budget of approximately $30 million has been allocated to prevent the spread of this pandemic.

I now turn to regional and international matters. Within the framework of regional and international openness, there have recently been several high-level visits to Iraq, including the following: Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, on 29 June 2009; French Prime Minister François Fillon on 1 July 2009 to sign a number of memorandums of understanding related to issues of mutual interest to Iraq and France; United States Vice-President Joseph Biden on the 2 July 2009 for consultations on the implementation of bilateral agreements; Mr. Luis Amado, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, on 7 July 2009; and the United States Secretary of Defense, Mr. Robert Gates, on 28 July 2009 to discuss the withdrawal of United States forces and security coordination with the Iraqi forces.

In return, the Iraqi Vice-President, Mr. Tariq Al-Hashimi, headed a delegation to the Non-Aligned Movement summit held in Sharm el-Sheikh on 15 and 16 July 2009. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki visited New York on 22 July 2009 to meet with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He also visited Washington on 22 July to meet with United States President Barack Obama to discuss the development of bilateral relations. Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs Hoshyar Zebari visited Egypt in July and signed, together with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, a memorandum of bilateral cooperation and strategic dialogue on 11 July. In addition, His Excellency Mr. Zebari visited New York to meet with the Secretary-General and the members of the Security Council from 12 to 16 July and also visited Washington to meet with United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

During their meetings with the Secretary-General in July, both Iraq's Prime Minister and its Minister for Foreign Affairs stressed that Iraq no longer constitutes a threat to international peace and security and that it has fulfilled many of the international obligations imposed on it since 1990.

On 25 June, within the framework of Iraq's efforts to resolve the pending issues with Kuwait, Iraq delivered 24 boxes containing old Kuwaiti currency, postage stamps and traveller's cheques belonging to the Kuwaiti Central Bank. The Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Nuri al-Maliki, has extended an invitation to Mr. Ibrahim al-Shaheen, President of the Kuwaiti Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoners of War Affairs, and his team to visit Iraq in order to finalize measures related to finding the remains of missing Kuwaitis.

In paragraph 67 of his report to the Security Council on the review of resolutions pertaining

specifically to Iraq (S/2009/385), the Secretary-General states:

> "It is important to recognize that the Iraq of today is very different from Iraq prior to 2003. It is my hope that the Security Council will consider this report with a view to taking appropriate decisions that would help Iraq to fulfil its outstanding obligations in a timely manner."

On that basis, the Government of my country hopes that the Security Council will shoulder its duty and enable Iraq to restore its international standing to that which it held prior to the adoption of Security Council resolutions starting with resolution 661 (1990).

In conclusion, I would like to stress my Government's gratitude for the members of the Security Council and for the UNAMI team in Iraq and at the United Nations, as well as for the support provided by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ad Melkert, at the request of the Iraqi Government and on the basis of mutually agreed mechanisms.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6178

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6178th meeting

Wednesday, 5 August 2009, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Sir John Sawers	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Tiendrébéogo
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Japan	Mr. Okuda
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United States of America	Ms. Rice
	Viet Nam	Mr. Le Luong Minh

Agenda

United Nations peacekeeping operations

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09-44283 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

United Nations peacekeeping operations

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia and Uruguay, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; Ms. Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support; and General Martin Luther Agwai, Force Commander for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. I will begin by making a few remarks at the outset.

I should like to start by welcoming the two Under-Secretaries-General, Alain Le Roy and Susana Malcorra. In their recent non-paper on peacekeeping, entitled "A new partnership agenda: Charting a new horizon for United Nations peacekeeping", they have spoken about the need to set a new horizon for United Nations peacekeeping — one that will help meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. I hope that today's debate will make some contribution to achieving that objective.

I am also very pleased that we have with us today General Martin Agwai, Force Commander of UNAMID, to provide a perspective from the field. Effective delivery on the ground has to be at the centre of our efforts to review peacekeeping — in the Security Council, in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in the General Assembly and elsewhere in the United Nations system. I thank General Agwai for his attendance today.

I also welcome his colleagues, the commanding officers of United Nations peacekeeping operations, who between them represent and command around 100,000 United Nations peacekeepers around the world. I pay tribute to them and to the men and women they serve with — military, police and civilian — and thank them all for their contribution to peace and security around the world.

United Nations peacekeeping is a unique global partnership. Our peacekeepers help fragile nations emerge from conflict to find new stability. They are a scarce asset, demand for which continues to grow. The United Nations system has a responsibility to ensure that United Nations peacekeepers are deployed to maximum effect in the places where they are needed most.

The initiative that the United Kingdom and France launched in January sought to ensure that the Security Council could play its part to best effect. In the early stages of our work, we have focused on the strategic oversight of peacekeeping operations, seeking to ensure that mandates are credible, achievable and measurable. And we have sought ways to improve information sharing and consultation with the countries that contribute troops and police.

At the same time, the increasing scale and complexity of peacekeeping have stimulated a dialogue among Member States and the Secretariat — a dialogue that has already produced important proposals from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support which warrant our further reflection.

This work has generated some initial progress on which we now need to build, working within the Security Council and beyond, in close cooperation with the wider United Nations system. Our objective today is to hear the views of colleagues from across the United Nations membership, record and review progress to date, and identify common elements of a way forward.

I now invite Mr. Le Roy to address the Council on this subject.

Mr. Le Roy (*spoke in French*): Obviously, it is an honour to be once again before the Security Council in a debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations at this important juncture in their development. I will be brief because I have had the opportunity twice in recent months to present our thoughts on the future of peacekeeping operations and since, as you said, Sir, our non-paper on the New Horizon initiative was issued on 17 July. Like you, I wish to highlight the presence today of nearly all of our commanding officers, who have been attending a seminar all this week. I welcome them here with us today.

Next year will mark a decade since the publication of the landmark report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations led by Ambassador Brahimi (S/2000/809). This is clearly an important moment for the Security Council and all Member States to take stock of progress and the challenges ahead.

Certainly, the Brahimi report and the subsequent reform efforts have served us particularly well. United Nations peacekeeping has become stronger and more effective. Without these improvements, the United Nations could not have kept up with the massive growth in demand for peacekeeping. There have been setbacks since the Brahimi report, such as in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo, but we have managed to move beyond them relatively quickly. We have built on lessons, good and bad, from the field. Much of this progress has been the result of the consistent support of the Member States, and the guidance provided by the Security Council and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations has been the basis for strengthening United Nations peacekeeping.

Within the Secretariat, the "Peace Operations 2010" internal reform sought to further professionalize our work. The restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the establishment of the Department of Field Support (DFS) in 2007 aimed to strengthen the organization and management systems at Headquarters. In 2008, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations produced a document entitled "United Nations peacekeeping operations: principles and guidelines" — better known as the Capstone Doctrine — which set out the elements that DPKO considers key for the successful conduct of peacekeeping operations. It reaffirms the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping — consent, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate. It underscores the importance for peacekeeping operations of having, by definition, a peace to keep, a political process to support and an integrated approach bringing together the United Nations family on the ground.

Yet we are all aware that the current scale and complexity of United Nations peacekeeping require us to review where we stand and to reinvigorate our partnership. The British-French initiative in the Council, the work of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, which is chaired by Japan, and the various initiatives of individual Member States in 2009 reflect that collective awareness. Our discussions have helped us to collectively identify some of the most urgent of these challenges.

First, it is increasingly tricky, as the Council knows, to find sufficient the personnel, equipment, senior leaders and even political leverage to meet the scale of our activity.

Secondly, we need a shared vision on the use of United Nations peacekeeping — on the conditions in which peacekeeping operations are an effective tool and the circumstances in which they are not. We face the challenge of translating that shared vision on the ground so as to protect civilians, defend against attacks on peace, and assist countries and Governments to recover from conflict.

Thirdly, we need effective transition strategies. Once we have achieved early stabilization, we must ensure that a strong and sustained collective recovery effort follows so that peacekeeping missions can transition and withdraw.

With that in mind, during the Security Council's debate on 29 June (see S/PV.6153), Under-Secretary-General Malcorra and I called for a renewed

partnership among peacekeeping stakeholders. The President referred to this call in his earlier remarks. Each and every one of us — the Security Council, the General Assembly's Special Committee and Fifth Committee, the troop- and police-contributing countries and, of course, the Secretariat — has an essential role to play. Each is indispensable, and we are mutually responsible to one another to deliver on our respective roles.

We look forward to pursuing our dialogue with members of the Security Council and to continuing a similarly rich dialogue with bodies of the General Assembly, in particular the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Fifth Committee.

(*spoke in English*)

To help facilitate this dialogue, DPKO and DFS, as the President mentioned, issued the New Horizon non-paper on 17 July. This non-paper is part of the New Horizon process to reinvigorate the peacekeeping partnership. It outlines a wide range of peacekeeping challenges that can be met only through effective partnership. Let me very quickly draw the Council's attention to some of them.

First, the non-paper highlights the importance of effective partnership for strengthening the planning of peacekeeping operations. We need to improve the quality of assessments and we can do so only through enhanced information sharing.

The Secretariat must also present to the Council a full range of options so as to enable the Council to authorize achievable mandates. Here too, the non-paper stresses the importance of enhanced consultation and communication. Effective planning depends upon peacekeeping partners clearly indicating, early on, where and how they might be able to assist in the preparation of an operation.

Secondly, the non-paper looks at some of the ways in which a revitalized partnership can improve the management and oversight of peacekeeping operations. It highlights the need to strengthen command-and-control systems at every level, including through more robust accountability frameworks between Headquarters and mission leaders. It also proposes stronger consultation and interaction with troop-contributing countries (TCCs) at all levels to ensure a common understanding of what may be demanded of personnel on the ground, particularly in robust peacekeeping scenarios.

Thirdly, the non-paper identifies three policy areas where the peacekeeping partnership is currently not united, which is creating very real operational dilemmas for our missions today. These are robust peacekeeping, protection of civilians and critical peacebuilding tasks for peacekeepers. We urgently need to build a common view on the role of peacekeepers in these areas, how they are translated on the ground, and what tools we need to do that.

Fourthly, we need to shift from a focus on numbers to ensuring that the necessary capability is in place. Such a capability-driven approach would have wide-ranging implications for how we source equipment and compensate Member States for it, for the standards we establish for personnel and tasks, for training support for newer TCCs and for inter-operability with regional organizations. This focus on capabilities for delivery also underpins much of the thinking behind the Support Strategy of the Department for Field Support (DFS), which Under-Secretary-General Malcorra will discuss shortly.

There is certainly a full agenda of issues which will depend on mutual vision and effort. The Secretariat, for its part, has sought through the New Horizon to identify ways that we ourselves can better deliver on our responsibilities. I would like to conclude by focusing on several commitments highlighted in the non-paper that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and DFS intend to hold ourselves to.

With respect to the planning and monitoring of, and reporting on, United Nations peacekeeping missions, we are making several commitments.

First, we commit to provide the Security Council with thorough assessments of situations into which a new peacekeeping operation may be deployed and to present proposals for the full range of support that might be considered to assist with mission deployment.

We commit to consult with the Security Council and contributing countries in advance of the deployment of technical assessment missions and to debrief on their findings.

We are committed to enhancing meaningful dialogue with troop and police contributors in the planning for new and ongoing missions and to ensuring

that the Security Council receives, through the reports of the Secretary-General, a clear assessment of the views received by the Secretariat from those contributing countries in advance of mandate renewal.

We will review, improve and streamline our reporting procedures to ensure that priority information requirements of the Security Council and troop contributors can be met within the resources we have available, and we will explore options for mutual information-sharing in support of peacekeeping missions.

We will continue our work to produce appropriate and high-quality benchmarks for missions, driven by a comprehensive understanding of conditions on the ground, and to research best practices in benchmarking, in close cooperation with all parts of the United Nations family that contribute to building peace after conflict.

The issues that I have highlighted are only some elements of a broader dialogue we hope to develop and sustain with members of the Security Council, with troop- and police-contributing countries and with our regional and United Nations partners on the full gamut of recommendations in our recently circulated non-paper. The DPKO and DFS non-paper is, as we always say, the start of a dialogue, not the end.

We sincerely hope that the months leading to the tenth anniversary of the Brahimi report can be used to build a new vision among all stakeholders in the peacekeeping partnership on how best to build on the foundations laid for United Nations peacekeeping nearly a decade ago. I am confident that in the coming months we can arrive at a revitalized partnership that sets out a common vision for United Nations peacekeeping and a shared commitment to strengthen it in order to serve the men, women and children who depend on it today and tomorrow.

The President: I am very grateful to Mr. Le Roy for his briefing. I now give the floor to Ms. Malcorra.

Ms. Malcorra: Mr. President, allow me to start by thanking you and this Council for providing this forum for discussion of matters of significance for our work to better serve the peacekeeping and political field presences serviced by the Department of Field Support (DFS). Allow me also to welcome our force commanders to this forum, because I think their presence really adds value to our discussion.

Alain has already referred to the work done in the New Horizon document. DFS has worked closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in the creation of this non-paper. As the Council knows, one of the key enablers of the New Horizon non-paper will be the Support Strategy. We started to discuss this Strategy with the Council at the Council retreat earlier this year, and we intend to maintain close consultations with Member States throughout the process. Our overarching goal is to provide improved support services with quality, speed and efficiency, and we believe that there are clear opportunities to achieve these goals.

I am absolutely convinced that DFS must improve its response to the evolving and increasing needs for support, and to do so in a holistic manner. The need to develop an agenda ambitious enough to tackle these demands and to give all parties involved the opportunity to engage in a good conversation underpins our efforts. Throughout the process, DFS will develop options, outline opportunities to improve and present sound business plans to support the decision process.

With this in mind, on Monday 3 August, we issued to all Member States a mid-point non-paper on the Support Strategy, which should be in your hands by now. This non-paper follows the release of the New Horizon document and is aimed at taking stock of our strategic thinking, while we start work on detailed proposals and business cases, including cost-benefit analyses. We anticipate that this process will culminate in a report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, next spring.

Some matters for discussion will have, in one way or the other, implications for rules, regulations and resource management, which will require review and endorsement for change by the Member States. The approval of the intergovernmental bodies will be sought in due course to achieve the support transformation envisioned.

The DFS Support Strategy non-paper reflects a high-level view and a fresh approach to supporting field missions. It also builds on the tools approved by the General Assembly to improve our operations. The development of this work takes into account the following key drivers.

The first is the need to update the regulatory framework to strike the right balance between the

demands for effective delivery and the demands to comply with rules and regulations. As it is unacceptable to excuse ourselves using the imperatives of the operational demands to justify shortcuts, it is also unacceptable to hide behind the existing framework without questioning its continued applicability and, where relevant, without seeking the appropriate empowerment to do our job better. Quite often, support operations are hindered by processes that have not been revisited for a long time or have not been adjusted to the current realities on the ground and to a fast-paced operational tempo.

Secondly, it is imperative to strike a balance between the risk to mandate delivery associated with delays in mission deployment and the risks stemming from increased operational empowerment. It is easier to measure the financial exposures than to measure the risk of not meeting the needs of the individuals we serve. We must do more to find the right balance. These proposals will have to go through an appropriate risk management analysis and will involve putting in place the necessary mitigating measures.

Thirdly, there is a need to protect our personnel and to ensure appropriate living and working conditions in the mission, while maximizing safety and security. Concepts such as modular delivery and the delivery of support from regional service centres will achieve clear benefits in terms of effectiveness and efficiency. We expect that they will also lead to a reduction in the quantity of support staff required in difficult and unsafe locations.

Fourth is the need to recognize that missions go through a life cycle and that key investments at critical stages can have a sizeable effect on the ability of missions to show real results in shorter time spans. Again, we anticipate that this approach should result in increased efficiency and a more strategic investment of scarce resources.

Fifth and last, there is the requirement to ensure a more productive impact on the environment in which we operate by contributing to the local or regional development of industry and individuals and by ensuring that the footprint is ecologically mindful and environmentally sensitive.

The elaboration following these drivers will be framed by the views expressed by Member States a few weeks ago during the adoption of the peacekeeping budgets regarding the balance between ambitions and the availability of resources to achieve them. We are conscious that all of this work requires that solid business cases be constructed to inform the decision-making and strategic direction.

We will seek guidance from Member States in the following key areas.

The first area is the establishment of a new support framework for service delivery in field operations, a framework based on a clear distinction between functions of a strategic and policymaking nature to be performed at Headquarters and repetitive transactional tasks that can be more effectively and efficiently delivered closer to the field operations they are designed to serve.

Second is the adoption of standardized mission support models to improve deployment timelines, achieve economies of scale and facilitate oversight and the responsible stewardship of the resources of Member States.

Third, we will seek guidance on the implementation of responsive resource management. We are striving for a model that allows improved flexibility to allow greater asset-sharing and allocation. This will also include a more effective approach to managing staff, ensuring their development and facilitating mobility across locations.

It is indeed too early for us to provide a detailed report at this juncture. We are working closely with all our implementing partners and stakeholders within the Secretariat to further develop this mission.

In conclusion, let me stress that support is not an end in itself. My Department has service delivery at its core. We must not lose sight of our ultimate purpose, which is to better serve those dedicated men and women charged with the daunting challenge of securing a fragile peace in war-torn countries. All our efforts will be dedicated to realizing this mission, and we count on the Council's support and guidance to get there.

The President: I thank Ms. Malcorra for her briefing and for the work that she and her Department have been doing on this very important topic.

I have the pleasure to give the floor to General Agwai, Force Commander for the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur.

General Agwai: Good morning. I am deeply honoured to have been invited here to address this prestigious forum.

We have just heard from two Under-Secretaries-General about the importance of identifying a new horizon for peacekeeping. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) encapsulates the full range of challenges facing modern United Nations peacekeeping missions: the role of critical enablers, deployment challenges, robust peacekeeping, the protection of civilians, logistic support and all the other issues addressed, which are at the very heart of UNAMID.

I come here as a simple soldier and would like to take this opportunity to speak to the Council candidly at the end of my posting to Darfur. It has been an extraordinary two years, and it has been a privilege to end my 40-year military career with such a challenging mission.

I was first posted to Darfur in July 2007 as the Force Commander of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), which was basically an observer mission with only eight infantry battalions and a strength of just about 7,000 sparsely deployed personnel. From those early days we have had to confront the consequences of the lack of critical strategic enablers in peacekeeping, whether in the African Union or the United Nations.

One example is the lack of military helicopters. In the attack on the AMIS camp at Haskanita in September 2007, 10 peacekeepers lost their lives on the spot and 2 more died in hospital. We could not fly many of them out until the following day because of the lack of helicopter resources. Sadly, UNAMID is now approaching its second anniversary without these vital enablers that can make such a difference to the safety and security of our personnel.

Another one of those enablers is robust communication lines. The well-executed ambush of a UNAMID patrol in July 2008 resulted in the deaths of seven more peacekeepers. One of the first rounds fired destroyed the patrol's only VHF radio, and the first information that the base camp had about the attack was when the survivors limped in some six hours later. Again, helicopters could have played a critical role in bringing the injured to safety.

The lack of specialized capabilities is critical in difficult and dangerous operating environments. Even the most experienced United Nations hands who were brought to help us after the transfer of authority on 31 December 2007 agreed that Darfur presents logistic challenges that go well beyond those that United Nations peacekeeping operations regularly face. The roads were no more than muddy tracks; the airfields were too short to allow large aircraft such as Antonov 124s to land; the railway was single-track, and the climate was brutal. The rate of deployment has been affected. The first new troops did not arrive until May 2008.

Nevertheless, we have made progress. By the end of this month, we should have 74 per cent of the total 19,555 troops on the ground. This is one of the factors behind the positive shift in attitude towards UNAMID among the local population and the significant number of civilians moving towards the UNAMID camps.

Yet, as the New Horizon non-paper makes clear, effective deployment is not just a question of total numbers of the ground. It is about the right types of capabilities arriving in the right sequence. As UNAMID's integrated deployment plan illustrated, sequencing of deployment — logisticians, engineers and medics first, as the United Nations Light and Heavy Support Packages, and new battalions thereafter — makes sense. But UNAMID also demonstrates that this is often very difficult in practice. Even now, there remain significant shortfalls to effective operating capacity of the mission.

The longer it takes to establish initial operating capacity, the more difficult it is to focus on practical mandate implementation. We are now beginning to look at this at UNAMID. Here, the New Horizon document makes an essential point as to the importance of peacekeepers with adequate pre-deployment training. In particular, we need to continue developing patrol skills if we are to extend UNAMID's area of influence.

At present, we are like 32 ink spots on a very large piece of blotting paper. Each spot must grow and be connected to the others. That means considerably longer patrols, ranging from base for several days at a stretch. Many of the troops deployed do not currently have the skills, discipline and equipment required for this type of patrolling. This, in turn, puts further strain on UNAMID to establish in-mission training units.

I attended the Conference on Robust Peacekeeping organized by the Office of Military Affairs in May 2009. Darfur typifies the kind of environments that often demand a robust response capacity. It is a complex internal dispute with many diverse players. It affects the most vulnerable — women and children. As the Brahimi report asserts, peacekeepers "must be prepared to confront the lingering forces of war and violence, with the ability and determination to defeat them" (*S/2000/809, p. viii*).

From my experience as Deputy Force Commander in Sierra Leone from 2000 to 2002, wherever the United Nations deploys, civilians have an expectation that it will provide protection. We are achieving that, but we need the tools with which to do it, including those critical enablers that I mentioned earlier. We also need well-trained troops and effective command and control. If we are to be robust, there must also be an acceptance of the risk of casualties, and we will need to redouble our efforts to protect mission and civilian personnel in the face of these risks.

I should say, however, that a robust posture is not only a matter of training, equipment or force strength, important as they are. It is first a matter of the attitude and resolve of the mission. When the Sudanese army and the forces of the Justice and Equality Movement squared off over control of Muhajeriya in late January and early February 2009, UNAMID's small contingent there risked being caught in the crossfire and was by no means in a position to directly impact the military situation. But by refusing to leave the town and its inhabitants, it sent a potent message to both parties and thereby contributed to averting direct hostilities.

A mission such as UNAMID demonstrates the importance of partnership and interaction between all the parties involved. The tripartite mechanism between the African Union, the United Nations and the Government of the Sudan, which focuses on deployment, logistical and administrative issues, is an effective one. I am particularly grateful to Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra for the commitment she has made to keeping those meetings focused, and to Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy for pushing the process forward.

But it does not stop there. In Darfur, we have to liaise daily with the parties on the ground — the State leadership, the Walis, the *umdas*, the Government of the Sudan police and military liaison, the sheikhs, the sheikh of sheikhs — and the list goes on. Failure to include any one of those can result in delays in deployment, stalled projects or obstructed patrols. It remains a real challenge for operational effectiveness.

This has been a remarkable two years for UNAMID. We have made significant progress on the ground and the end of the deployment is at last in sight. This is a major achievement, and I have faith that when we are fully deployed, we will make a difference to the men and women of Darfur, who have suffered so much for so long. The burden of expectation upon us is high, but we owe it to them to deliver.

On a personal note, may I thank all Council members for their unflinching support throughout my tenure. It has been an absolute privilege to be the Force Commander of such a challenging mission.

The President: I thank General Agwai for his briefing and his outstanding service to the United Nations over the past several years. We are very grateful to him for everything that he has done personally. We also thank the entire team at the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I take this opportunity again to thank all the commanders of the peacekeeping missions who are here for their annual conference and have taken time out from that to attend our meeting this morning. I know they have to move on in 10 minutes' time or so, but we are very glad to have them here. On behalf of the Council, I should just like to thank them all, and all the men and women of their missions, for the outstanding work they do for peace and security around the world.

I shall now give the floor to members of the Security Council. In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members, I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than five minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

Mr. Ripert (France) (*spoke in French*): Allow me at the outset to thank you, Sir, for organizing this important debate and to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Council. I also wish to thank the delegation of Uganda for the skill

and effectiveness with which it presided over our work last month.

I welcome the broad participation in this meeting, particularly on the part of the major troop-contributing countries, and the presence of the force commanders in the field. I also thank Under-Secretaries-General Alain Le Roy and Susana Malcorra and General Agwai for their very clear briefings. I also associate myself with the statement to be made shortly by my Swedish colleague on behalf of the European Union.

Much has changed since the beginning of United Nations peacekeeping and the establishment of the earliest forces, such as United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and the First United Nations Emergency Force. The goals remain the same, however. Unfortunately, many of the structural difficulties also remain the same. Some of those difficulties have even increased due to the number and scope of United Nations operations.

The Security Council, which shoulders the primary responsibility for peace and security, must always strive to make responsible decisions that reflect the desired goals and enable their effective fulfilment as quickly as possible and in acceptable human and financial conditions.

In any crisis situation, the operations we launch — after having done our utmost to avoid doing so through preventive action — must be carefully thought out and constructed in the context of a comprehensive strategy taking into account the specific nature of each crisis and the complexities of its management, root causes and settlement. Peacekeeping operations must be structured around precise, clear and hierarchical mandates and be sustainable in the long term. To that end, they must enjoy the support of all Council members and draw on adapted and sufficient financial, human and technical resources. They must also be supported by all the other peacekeeping components of the system, be it the troop-contributing countries, the primary financers of United Nations budgets and the organs and agencies that, in the field or at Headquarters, have a key role to play in ensuring the consistency and effectiveness of our actions.

While most challenges are recurrent, many solutions are equally so. As has already been mentioned, a rereading of the Brahimi report, the "Peace Operations 2010" report (A/60/696) or statements released by the Council since 1994 shows them to be as relevant as ever. Although no past attempt at reform has been sufficient in and of itself, all such attempts have been useful milestones in the development of peacekeeping operations. The United Nations record is impressive. Allow me to say — solemnly, humbly and with restraint — that we can be collectively proud of that record. Together, we have learned from our failures and the tragedies of the past. In short, we have assumed our responsibilities.

In that respect, I reiterate our admiration of and gratitude to all United Nations personnel, particularly all those civilian and military staff members who risk their lives in the field every day.

Along with you, Sir, in January we launched a common initiative to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council in peacekeeping. As we engage in our first stocktaking, I would underscore two sources of satisfaction.

First, we feel that the French-British initiative has led to intense activity that we believe to have proven extremely fruitful already. Reports, debates, seminars and statements have abounded in recent months. The unalloyed enthusiasm and earnest that have been expressed have been commensurate with the stakes. We must draw on the initial conclusions of this work so that we can transcend rhetoric and change our working methods as soon as possible.

The second source of satisfaction in recent months is the fact that we have begun to change our practices in a concrete way. We have set up quarterly meetings with the Secretariat to take stock of the overall difficulties encountered in peacekeeping. We have enhanced our dialogue with the troop-contributing countries, thanks in particular to the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations chaired by Japan. We have begun to extend the so-called political/military meetings operation by operation, and we have launched the slow process of updating planning documents and of extending the establishment of the benchmarks necessary to ensure genuine follow-up for operations.

Many of these elements can be put in place with ease; others with more difficulty. But changes are occurring, and for that I would like to congratulate and thank all our counterparts in the Secretariat, particularly the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, which have been able to adapt to the new way of working, which we consider to be the most effective, and to the new relationships that

the Security Council seeks to establish with all actors in the system.

Much remains to be done, however. We are preparing to adopt a statement that underscores the challenges we face, of which I would like to highlight a few. We need to further strengthen our strategic follow-up of operations, while considering, inter alia, specific ways of increasing the Council's military expertise. We also need to ensure that the Secretariat can plan and undertake operations in an increasingly effective manner, particularly through adapted rules of engagement.

We also need to deepen our thinking, particularly through an open dialogue with troop-contributing countries, non-governmental organizations and United Nations specialized agencies on such sensitive issues as the protection of civilians, combating violence against women, especially sexual abuse, and preventing the recruitment of child soldiers. We recognize that if Blue Helmets are to be effective, they must be able to take robust action, while taking into account the risks to which such actions may sometimes expose civilians.

We also need to enhance our work on resources and budget performance, while ensuring that, when the Council takes its decisions, it has a clear understanding of their operational and financial impact. We must continue to work to expand available capacities and regularly review the strategy, balance, composition and size of ongoing operations.

Lastly, we must enhance our capacity to implement complex mandates. It is essential to strengthen the interaction of the Security Council and the Secretariat on questions concerning the police, judicial and rule of law components of operations. That will require us to prepare exit strategies as soon as we begin to draft mandates, in particular with respect to the economic, social and political recovery and reconstruction of societies, which have often been devastated by conflict. We know well that, if we wish to establish lasting economic development, only the rule of law and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedom can ensure a permanent return to peace.

We must work to ensure better integration of these various components in New York, Geneva and the field. From that standpoint, the implementation of the conclusions on system-wide coherence is fundamental. To accomplish all this, it is clear that the Council should rely more on the Peacebuilding Commission in its central component and its country-specific configurations, with the specific aim of serving as a focal point and venue for discussion among all actors involved — the authorities of the countries in conflict, members of the Council and the General Assembly, troop-contributing and donor States, senior officials of funds and programmes, and agency representatives.

The momentum is under way. Our next meeting is set for the end of 2009. Until then, the Council may rest assured that France will spare no effort to ensure that we make progress in the implementation of our road map.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting. I would also like to thank Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra and General Agwai for their very helpful briefings. I want to join you in expressing how honoured we are by the presence of so many United Nations force commanders and chief military observers. We are deeply grateful for their leadership and sacrifice. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank again all the troop- and police-contributing countries for their invaluable contributions.

As the Council may recall, the United States outlined its overall approach to the challenges of United Nations peacekeeping on 29 June at this Council's thematic debate on peacekeeping, convened by Turkey (see S/PV.6153). Therefore, today I would like to restrict myself to five brief points.

First, my Government greatly appreciates the efforts that the United Kingdom and all fellow Council members have made on today's presidential statement. It is the product of several months of increased attention to United Nations peacekeeping, which the United Kingdom and France helped generate early this year. Important discussions have also been held in the Security Council's Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and in the General Assembly's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, chaired by Japan and Nigeria, respectively. Turkey and Canada have helped to advance the debate through initiatives and efforts of their own. We thank these Member States and, again, the troop, police and financial contributors, who have all been involved in formulating the presidential statement.

In adopting today's presidential statement, we will increase the chances of success of peacekeeping operations both now and in the future. In that statement, we have committed ourselves to providing missions with clear, credible and achievable mandates. We have pledged to think carefully before establishing new missions that may lack the resources needed to get the job done or may have to operate in conditions ill-suited to success. We have resolved to resist the temptation to simply roll over mandates when they expire.

These are important steps. We have agreed to reflect seriously on the progress that has been made and the obstacles that remain to ensure that we can make any necessary adjustments. But, as we have noted before, the United States will not support the arbitrary or abrupt downsizing or termination of missions.

Secondly, the presidential statement acknowledges that both the Security Council and the Secretariat must do a better job of consulting with troop- and police-contributing countries, especially when adopting new mandates or renewing old ones. The troop and police contributors bring a wealth of experience to these discussions, and they deserve to have their concerns heard and heeded. This is one of the most important messages we have taken away from discussions in the Council's previous thematic debates, its Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, and the General Assembly's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

Thirdly, the United States appreciates the efforts that the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support have made to advance the debate on the future of United Nations peacekeeping. The recently issued non-paper, "A new partnership agenda", rightly reminds us that we are all in this together. While the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Secretariat and individual Member States each have distinct roles and responsibilities, success in peacekeeping depends on our collective unity of purpose and effort.

In the non-paper, one key partner, the Secretariat, is appealing for help in energizing faltering peace processes, rallying missing capabilities, meeting local capacity-building and peacebuilding needs, considering new business models for mission planning and support, and clarifying such key concepts as robust peacekeeping and the protection of civilians.

As I have said before, the United States remains ready to do its part, and we will receive new ideas with an open mind. We look forward to in-depth discussions over the coming months on the proposals in the New Horizon non-paper and in the companion draft field support strategy that was circulated this week. We are reviewing both documents with great interest, and we are ready to work closely with all involved to further develop these proposals.

At the same time, we look to the Secretariat to do all it can to improve mission leadership and management, strengthen personnel and procurement systems, achieve economies and savings, prevent waste, fraud and abuse and clarify the roles and responsibilities of United Nations actors at Headquarters and in the field.

Fourthly, the United States is ready to act on both the spirit and the letter of the presidential statement and the New Horizon non-paper. The mandates of United Nations missions in Liberia, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo will come up for renewal over the next few months. We welcome early dialogue with troop and police contributors on these missions. We also welcome early recommendations from the Secretariat on actions that the Security Council and Member States can take to increase the chances that mandates will be successfully implemented and that missions can be drawn down responsibly at the appropriate time.

Finally, while the United States will be appealing to all Member States to do more for United Nations peacekeeping, we are also asking more of ourselves. That includes, importantly, meeting our financial obligations. On that note, I was pleased to make the case for United Nations peacekeeping on Capitol Hill last week, while acknowledging its shortcomings and underscoring the United States' commitment to strengthening United Nations peacekeeping capacities.

I was also honoured to be able to thank the United States Congress for the funding it has recently appropriated. The United States is now in a position to clear all its peacekeeping arrears accumulated from 2005 to 2008 and to meet our obligations in full for 2009, which are currently estimated at approximately $2.2 billion.

We remain ready to invest in United Nations peacekeeping, even in a time of economic crisis, because this truly global enterprise serves a shared

interest and offers millions of people the prospect of a more secure, prosperous and dignified future. We look forward to working closely with our fellow Council members and with all interested parties to forge an even stronger partnership, and we look forward to working together to make United Nations peacekeeping more effective in the twenty-first century.

The President: I believe that General Obiakor and his fellow commanders now need to leave. I thank them again for their presence here for the past hour and for all their work. I ask them to convey our thanks to all the men and women of their missions.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council this month. We are confident that your wisdom will make it possible for us to achieve the best results. I would also like to thank you for having organized this important debate on peacekeeping operations and congratulate Ambassador Rugunda and the delegation of Uganda for the excellent way in which they conducted the Council's work last month. I would also like to thank Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Susana Malcorra for their excellent briefings.

My delegation supports the statement to be made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. I will therefore simply raise a few points here. I will be brief.

Major efforts have been made to reform the planning and management of peacekeeping operations. This began with the Brahimi report (S/2000/809), which was followed by the "Peace Operations 2010" report, the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the establishment of the Department of Field Support. The work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations has guaranteed the follow-up to and assessment of that report.

We hope that today's debate will enable us to achieve concrete results by establishing a broad partnership that includes all actors. That partnership should benefit from the expertise and experience of troop- and police-contributing countries in improving the planning of peacekeeping operations and from our consideration of how we can strengthen their effectiveness within the framework of clear, achievable and consensual mandates.

We believe it is high time to broaden the participation of troop-contributing countries in peacekeeping operations so that more developed countries can contribute troops, financial resources and materiel, and peacekeeping operations can have the weapons and equipment they need to function.

We reiterate that the establishment or renewal of a mandate must be in line with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and based on the guidelines agreed between the various parties.

The growing demand for peacekeeping requires us to consider enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations so that the latter are encouraged to play a greater role in peacebuilding and in preserving peace. There is no doubt, in this connection, that the African Union, with Libya as its Chairman, is at the forefront of these regional organizations, first because most current armed conflicts are in Africa and, secondly, it has its own peacekeeping mechanisms. Indeed, the African Union created the Peace and Security Council, is playing a growing role in the area of peacekeeping and has launched numerous initiatives that deserve support and encouragement. We therefore reaffirm the need to continue to implement the joint action plan between the African Union and the United Nations for short- and midterm peacekeeping capacity-building. We would also like to strengthen direct cooperation on capacity-building for the African Union Mission in Somalia.

Finally, we reaffirm that successful peacekeeping is based on a given mission's full deployment and on a parallel active political process involving all parties to a conflict, in which they express their willingness to reject violence and their commitment to dialogue in order to resolve their differences. We believe that the draft presidential statement before us will contribute enormously to peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Okuda (Japan): Allow me to begin my statement, Mr. President, by congratulating you on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of August. I also express my appreciation to Ambassador Rugunda and his staff from the Ugandan mission for the excellent manner in which they conducted the work of the Security Council for the month of July.

I would like to thank Mr. Le Roy, Ms. Malcorra and General Martin Luther Agwai for their very extensive briefings on peacekeeping operations.

As they mentioned, United Nations peacekeeping operations have been among the most important tools for the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security. In spite of the harsh operational environments in which they are deployed, United Nations peacekeeping missions are making a difference by improving the lives of people in countries emerging from conflict.

Their success notwithstanding, the entire system of peacekeeping operations is faced with various challenges, which must be addressed through a holistic approach. We welcome the ongoing efforts in this regard in various forums within the United Nations, including the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretariat, as well as those under way outside the United Nations system. We consider it imperative to formulate practical and concrete steps to address issues pertaining to peacekeeping as a whole. We need to have an open mind in this discussion in order to achieve an outcome leading to more effective peacekeeping operations in the future.

For this timely debate today, we would like to touch upon three areas in which enhancement is required: policy review of peacekeeping operations; cooperation with troop-contributing countries (TCCs) and police-contributing countries (PCCs); and troop capacity and assets.

Regarding policy review by the Council, we would like to raise two points. First, it is important for the Council to have a comprehensive understanding of United Nations peacekeeping operations and to review them in a holistic manner. To that end, we consider it useful to establish the practice whereby the Council would periodically review, in an interactive manner, its policy on peacekeeping operations, based on briefings by the Under-Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support.

Secondly, as my delegation pointed out in the recent open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding (see S/PV.6165), the Council needs to explore more precisely the extent to which the mandates of peacekeeping missions could be expanded to include such peacebuilding activities as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the establishment of democratic governance and the rule of law, and capacity-building. If some of those peacebuilding activities are to be carried out by other entities, we need to consider how peacekeeping missions can coordinate effectively with those activities.

The further enhancement of the interaction between the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries is required to achieve more effective mission operations in the field. The Council's Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations was established to serve as a forum to strengthen cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries and other stakeholders. As Chair of the Working Group, we have invited troop- and police-contributing countries and other stakeholders to three meetings this year to address gaps between mandates and their implementation.

In the meetings, the Working Group was briefed by the Secretariat and sought first-hand feedback from the TCCs and PCCs on conditions on the ground. We take this opportunity to thank those countries that have shared their valuable experience and ideas with the Working Group. We reported the outcome of the meetings in the interim report of the Working Group that was submitted to the President of the Security Council at the end of last month. We plan to continue the discussion in the Working Group in order to begin efforts for the enhancement of cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries and other stakeholders.

In that regard, I would like to take this opportunity to touch upon the following two points. First, as suggested in the New Horizon non-paper, we would consider it useful to create a so-called coalition group to support each peacekeeping mission. Our confidence in the utility of that approach is based on Japan's experience as a member of the core group on Timor-Leste. Garnering broad support among the countries concerned, including regional partners and donors, contributes greatly both to the actual operation of a mission and to supporting the political process. Such practices could be applied to other peacekeeping missions.

Secondly, in May, the Council held a meeting with the troop- and police-contributing countries of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste on beginning the transfer of police authority. That is a good example of an occasion for the Council to hold meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries not only at the time of mandate renewal, but also when there are new developments in the field. Such interaction is particularly important for the early

engagement of the TCCs and PCCs. We believe that this precedent should also be applied to the operation of other missions.

Finally, the enhancement of troop capacity and assets and logistical support is indispensable in order for a complex mandate to be implemented successfully. Although we have seen positive progress in that area, such as the enhancement of information gathering for the protection of civilians in the United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the activities of peacekeeping training centres in Africa, many participants in the Working Group have pointed out the need to address the inadequacy of troop mobility, including the need for aerial assets, as well as the enhancement of communications. Those issues are also touched upon in the New Horizon non-paper. We would like to follow up those issues from various perspectives, including through the work of the Working Group, in conjunction with the efforts of the Secretariat.

We hope that those political and operational issues will continue to be addressed in the Council towards the formulation of an enhanced strategy on peacekeeping operations. As Chair of the Working Group, Japan will continue its efforts to reinforce the work of the Council through in-depth consideration of those operational issues. We intend to resume the work of the Working Group this autumn, with a focus on the enhancement of cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries, while also taking up other priority issues.

Japan highly appreciates the efforts of the United Kingdom in the preparation of the draft presidential statement of the Security Council. We will actively engage in the follow-up of that presidential statement.

The President: I thank the Ambassador of Japan for his delegation's leadership of the Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam): At the outset, I would like to extend to you, Mr. President, and the United Kingdom delegation our congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I would like to thank Ambassador Rugunda and the Ugandan delegation for their effective leadership of the work of the Council in July.

I thank Mr. Alain Le Roy, Ms. Susana Malcorra and General Martin Luther Agwai for their detailed briefings, and the force commanders who have left the Chamber for their presence. Viet Nam supports the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement, to be delivered by the Ambassador of Morocco.

Through more than six decades that witnessed radical transformations in the international security environment, United Nations peacekeeping operations have evolved into a versatile tool and a credible response of the Organization to deterring or reversing protracted conflicts and to helping the affected countries move towards a steady state of stability. Today, with 116,000 personnel deployed in 15 missions, peacekeeping is shouldering a unique spectrum of integrated, multisectoral and multifaceted mandates that extend far beyond the traditional task of ceasefire monitoring and involve a wider partnership of international and national stakeholders.

Since the beginning of the new millennium, however, the exponential growth in the number, scope, size and cost of peacekeeping operations has overstretched the United Nations capacity to deliver on all tasks. The prolongation of intra-State conflicts and their transboundary dimensions have brought about challenges associated with personnel management, logistical support, quality assurance, oversight and political engagement, while there is little sign that the demand for complex, multidimensional missions is decreasing. Against the backdrop of the global financial crisis, the mismatch between costs and capacities, which vary across operations, and the disconnect among those who take decisions on peacekeeping operations, those who implement them, those who allocate resources, those who have to implement decisions on the ground and recipient countries are factors that, in varying degrees, add to the complexity of the problems faced.

For the shared objective of making United Nations peacekeeping work better, over the past couple of years Member States have come up with several important initiatives on policy issues and capacity-building, including the Brahimi report (S/2000/809), the 2010 reform agenda, the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the establishment of the Department of Field Support. Efforts are also being undertaken by the Fifth Committee, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacebuilding Commission, United

Nations agencies and programmes, and the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations. As an internal review to help configure United Nations peacekeeping to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, the New Horizon non-paper calls for a global partnership in purpose and action for the future and proposes recommendations that cut across the entire life cycle of a mission.

In the context of the multiplication of proposals already available, we consider that the merit of any new initiative or process should be carefully gauged in the context of the ongoing reforms and discussed in an open and transparent manner. Thus, we can ensure coherence and the best possible results and, in particular, gain a correct understanding of and appropriately carry out such cross-cutting tasks as the protection of civilians, robust operations and peacebuilding activities.

We underline the importance of ensuring the best possible unity of command, lines of accountability, integration of efforts, and the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers through every phase of the relevant reforms. In that process, the establishment and performance of mandates should always be carried out in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and such universally recognized principles as the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence, total impartiality, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, and non-interference in their internal affairs.

The wider United Nations membership and international partners can also have a role to play in such endeavours. Troop- and police-contributing countries, most of which are non-aligned and developing nations, should be involved early and fully in all aspects and stages of peacekeeping so as to contribute their expertise and experience to the decision-making process both at Headquarters and in the field. The comparative advantages and inputs of regional organizations could be further exploited within the framework of Chapter VIII in order to reinforce the effectiveness and synergies for peacekeeping.

As part of a comprehensive approach to latent conflicts, peacekeeping can be neither a panacea for the problems related to international peace and security nor a substitute for the local political process, which should be strengthened by national reconciliation efforts and the full realization of peoples' potential. That in turn would alleviate the situations of already overburdened missions.

Peacekeeping operations are not intended primarily to engage in reconstruction or to rebuild the countries in which they are deployed, as other specialized organizations and institutions can carry out such activities more efficiently. In order to achieve sustainable peace, the root causes of conflicts must be resolved by engaging all involved parties on the basis of dialogue and peaceful dispute settlement and by finding long-term solutions to the comprehensive political, security, economic and humanitarian dimensions of the problems in question.

Depending on the specific circumstances and context, preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention and resolution, and peacebuilding, if used appropriately, can have more desired effects and less-costly solutions. Accomplishing that will mean integrating the New Horizon initiative with the recently issued reports of the Secretary-General on mediation and early recovery, strengthening the relationship between peacebuilding and peacekeeping, and enhancing the critical role of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Finally, we thank you, Mr. President, and your delegation for the draft presidential statement, which we support.

Mr. Shcherbak (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation is grateful to you, Mr. President, and to the delegation of the United Kingdom for convening today's Security Council meeting on the critical issue of United Nations peacekeeping. We listened very closely to the briefings by Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra, who introduced the New Horizon non-paper prepared by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. We thank General Agwai for his valuable comments, which were based on his practical experience in one of the most complex peacekeeping operations. We intend to carefully study the proposals and recommendations set out in the non-paper, particularly since many of them require further analysis.

A preliminary look at the New Horizon non-paper shows that, in general, it contains an adequate assessment of United Nations peacekeeping. It can serve in principle as a good basis for the formulation of practical recommendations to enhance the effectiveness

of peacekeeping activities. All peacekeeping reform measures must be aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Improving United Nations peacekeeping is a fundamental challenge. It involves improving the quality of peacekeeping operation management, more effectively utilizing the resources of regional organizations and building the capacities of the United Nations itself with regard to all key dimensions of peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

We should update the practice of conducting operational consultations among Security Council members, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat on all aspects of peacekeeping operation activities. In that regard, we wish to draw attention to the need to implement existing cooperation mechanisms, as referred to in the note by the President of the Security Council dated 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56).

Many of the ideas set forth in the New Horizon document appear to be timely. Undoubtedly, the Security Council must develop clear and feasible mandates for its operations. In that regard, it is important that mechanisms be established for adjusting them in accordance with developments in the situation on the ground. We support the idea of formulating criteria for the alteration of mandates and benchmarks for the drawdown of peacekeeping operations.

The report rightly highlights the need to expand the number of United Nations peacekeeping partners through enhanced dialogue with regional organizations. Experience has shown that active utilization of the capacities of regional mechanisms is effective if their activities are carried out in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and if their relationship with the Organization, including the Security Council, is guided by the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter. There is no doubt that strict respect for the Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security is essential.

The United Nations should increase its interaction with other regional structures as well. We believe that good opportunities in that area lie in improving the cooperation between the United Nations and such traditional partners as the African Union and the European Union, as well as organizations that are actively gaining experience, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Particular attention should be accorded to the problem of ensuring the level of military expertise necessary for the implementation of Security Council decisions. Although the New Horizon non-paper unfortunately overlooks that issue, there is still room for further work in this area. We support the idea of involving military experts from members of the Council in reviewing and agreeing the mandates of peacekeeping operations.

At the same time, it is our view that the work of the Security Council on the military aspects of peacekeeping should be further systematized. In that context, we believe that the Russian proposal that the composition of the Military Staff Committee be expanded to all 15 Security Council members remains fully relevant and essential.

We welcome the Secretariat's intention to more systematically implement the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1327 (2000) and 1353 (2001), which concern measures to increase the interaction among the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat.

Further study should be devoted to the strategic vision for United Nations peacekeeping. It is not clear how, in practice, United Nations partnerships will be formed; how the division of labour and coordination will be undertaken; or how the number of troop-contributing countries and the resource base will be expanded. The ideas of increasing the staffs of Secretariat structures and establishing standby and permanent units have already been discussed repeatedly but, unfortunately, have yet to be implemented.

The idea of establishing informal coalitions of interested actors in support of specific country missions, referred to today by a number of delegations, needs further clarification. How will the informal status of such coalitions relate to their involvement in addressing the issues of mission budgets and resource support?

Another issue concerns the designation of technical assessment missions when planning specialists are already present on the ground. Further study should be devoted to the parameters for the new strategy of field support.

We also need to determine the feasibility of the concept of robust peacekeeping. That will require the expansion of peacekeeping mandates, which is not always warranted, and an even further increase in the peacekeeping budget, rather than its optimization.

We do not believe that the initiative aimed at greater flexibility in financial resource management is fully justified, as we understand that it would involve the consolidation of peacekeeping operation accounts. That could lead to an overallocation of funds, which in turn would undermine the already established financing system for each specific mission.

We await more detailed information on the Secretariat's ideas to optimize the system of field support, specifically with regard to procurement mechanisms. We would like to emphasize the responsibilities of the Secretariat in terms of improving the comprehensive planning of operations and coordination between Headquarters and the field.

Russia attaches great importance to the role of United Nations peacekeeping in the maintenance of international peace and security and is moving to increase its participation in peacekeeping operations. Russian peacekeepers are taking part in operations in the Middle East, several regions of Africa, Haiti and Kosovo. A Russian helicopter unit is operating in the United Nations Mission in the Sudan. Another Russian air group is deployed in the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad. The training of African specialists in Russian specialized training institutes has proved to be of great utility.

We are grateful to the delegation of the United Kingdom for preparing the draft presidential statement on peacekeeping, which we support. At the same time, we would draw attention to the fact that the draft focuses insufficient attention on the role of the General Assembly's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and on the need to intensify the activities of the Military Staff Committee and implement the mechanisms of cooperation with the troop-contributing countries, as provided for in the note of the President of the Security Council dated 14 January 2002.

Mr. Urbina (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to begin by expressing our thanks for the briefings of the Under-Secretaries-General Malcorra and Le Roy. We also welcome the presence of General Agwai, Force Commander of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and thank him for his briefing, which stressed the need for the Security Council to improve its interactions with force commanders in the future.

I would also like to thank your delegation, Sir, for having organized this debate. I acknowledge your joint initiative with the French delegation this year to promote the discussion within the Council on how to improve its ability to plan, mandate, manage and assess peacekeeping operations.

The concept paper circulated by the delegation of the United Kingdom allows us to take stock of the progress made by the Council since January, including the intensified effort to interact with the troop-contributing countries (TCCs) and police-contributing countries (PCCs), especially through the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations chaired by Japan. In many cases, we have seen improvement in the interaction at the technical level between Council members and the Secretariat, especially through the meetings of political and military experts. We also welcome the more consistent use of benchmarks, which are valuable tools for assessing progress in missions. Lastly, this open debate and those held under the French and Turkish presidencies have given the Council an opportunity to review the general challenges of peacekeeping operations in conjunction with the TCCs and PCCs, whose participation in these debates is crucial.

The debate of 29 June (see S/PV.6153) made it clear that there is a consensus on the need to broaden and deepen interaction between the Council, the TCCs and PCCs, and the Secretariat. Having determined that this is a common objective, we must now discuss and welcome practical proposals to improve consultation among all actors and commit the Council, the troop- and police-contributing countries, and the Secretariat to making better and more consistent use of existing mechanisms. We must continue the practice of holding private meetings established in accordance with resolution 1327 (2000) well in advance of mandate renewals. We also must participate more actively in these meetings on the basis of more operational and timely information provided by the Secretariat. In that respect, we support the proposals contained in the New Horizon document for improving the quantity and quality of communication and reports from the Secretariat. We are grateful to Mr. Le Roy for his commitment to these measures.

This year, we have observed that the level of interaction and participation of the troop- and police-contributing countries has been greater and more substantial in the meetings of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations than in the private meetings of the Council with the troop-contributing countries. This experience leads us to suggest that the Council make greater use of the consultation mechanism identified in the note of the President of the Security Council dated 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56) or of the meetings between the Working Group and the troop- and police-contributing countries on specific operations.

My country also supports the emerging practice of holding meetings between the political and military experts of the members of the Council and the Secretariat, particularly the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support. Such meetings should also be planned in advance of negotiating mandates in order to give the opportunity to members of the Council to interact with the Secretariat and receive inputs so as to ensure that the mandates respond to operational, logistical and political realities on the ground.

In recent weeks, we have worked alongside other members of the Council to draft a presidential statement that brings together many of the elements that I have pointed out and proposes a series of steps and commitments. As with other Council resolutions and statements, the most important thing will be to translate words into deeds. Costa Rica will work with other delegations in order to make sure that these commitments are fulfilled.

Costa Rica values the flexibility with which the Council can operate and the many instruments it has at its disposal. However, we would like to stress the need to use more inclusive tools. The Council must be more creative and seek tools that promote inclusiveness, transparency and interaction. We believe that we must consider how we can promote interaction with host countries and increase communication with the force commanders, as we have done today with General Agwai. We must also use tools whose general purpose would be greater interaction with other actors, which would allow the Council to take more informed decisions and ensure more effective implementation of its decisions.

I would like to thank Mr. Le Roy and Ms. Malcorra for their briefings on the New Horizon document and the support strategy. Costa Rica believes that the document is a solid basis for seeking a new consensus on United Nations peacekeeping.

My delegation generally supports the valuable and relevant recommendations outlined in the New Horizon document, and we hope to discuss them in greater depth in the future. In particular, we support the recommendations aimed at defining a clear and comprehensive vision for the responsible transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. From the initial stages of the life cycle of a mission, the Council must incorporate elements necessary to building sustainable peace, such as the promotion of social and economic development, security sector reform and strengthening the rule of law, while it seeks to build and strengthen national capacities. In this respect, we support greater interaction between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

Costa Rica is working on and remains committed to the need to strengthen consensus on policies that define the implementation of mandates, such as the protection of civilians. We intend to have substantive discussions on this matter within the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as well as within the Council under the Austrian presidency in November. We hope that we can review the recommendations and conclusions of the joint study that has been commissioned by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and DPKO on the implementation of mandates for the protection of civilians.

I conclude by highlighting the approach contained in the New Horizon document with respect to the idea of partnership. It is on the basis of this partnership that the success and legitimacy of peacekeeping operations can be better prepared.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to thank the Under-Secretaries-General, Mr. Alain Le Roy and Ms. Susana Malcorra, for their presentations. We also wish to thank General Agwai, Force Commander of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

We welcome the United Kingdom initiative to hold this debate, which gives us the opportunity to continue our collective consideration within the Organization, in various formats, on how to enhance the effectiveness and fulfilment of the objectives

involved in peacekeeping operations, as well as on efforts directed toward the future.

We welcome the document that serves as a basis on which to shape a new horizon for peacekeeping operations. We believe that particular attention should be given to the proposal to establish a new partnership agenda that would incorporate three elements: first, strengthening the unity and cohesion of the actors involved in the management, planning and administration of peacekeeping operations; secondly, giving greater credibility to operations; and thirdly, strengthening their capacity so that they can continue to be an instrument that would guarantee global peace and security. We will continue to carefully study the recommendations, which are based on strengthened conversions of partnerships around the purpose, action and future of United Nations peace operations.

During the debate last January under the French presidency (see S/PV.6075), my delegation underscored the need to identify the areas where we need greater action, as well as the good practices that could be implemented in future, given the growing complexity of the international situations that face peace operations today.

In that connection we reiterate five aspects that we believe are crucial and that we wish to raise today. These are, first, the centrality of the decision-making process for the establishment of a peacekeeping operation; secondly, specific political guidelines in the mandates that help define the conditions that will determine the success of a mission; thirdly, the multidimensional character of the operations and the nature of conflicts, in order to seek collective approaches founded on different types of cooperation based on greater coordination at the level of programmes and strategies; fourthly, the importance of protecting the civilian population as an essential element in the effort to strengthen peace operations; and lastly, the need to establish an effective planning and coordination mechanism.

The complexity of peacekeeping operations reflects the need to seek greater and more flexible mechanisms for complementarity and coordination among the different bodies and with other entities in the area of peacekeeping. We need to intensify the Council's interaction with the Secretariat during the initial stage of designing the different mandates and during the deployment of a mission, including the military, police, rule of law and peacebuilding aspects of an operation, among other things.

As we pointed out during the debate that took place under the Turkish presidency of the Council in June (see S/PV.6153), it is also important to keep the contributing countries informed in the process of planning and analyzing peacekeeping operations, as that would broaden and enrich the vision of those operations and enhance their viability by incorporating those countries' knowledge, experience and good practices. Likewise, we feel it is a priority to promote the Council's strategic partnerships with regional organizations and other organizations in the field.

Mexico has been stressing the importance of the fact that in order to ensure the credibility and legitimacy of the United Nations, it is necessary to establish peace operations that enjoy the military, financial and political resources that enable them to comply with their mandates in the terms that we have described. Likewise, it is also important to have updated information on the development of the activities set out in the mandates and on the assessment and viability of the operation in the circumstances that it confronts.

We feel that the briefing sessions that we have had with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support since the start of the year have been very valuable, as have the meetings with the main troop-contributing countries in the framework of the working group chaired by Japan.

Along these lines, we support the holding of frequent interactive sessions with the different actors, primarily at the expert level, during the analysis that is carried out for every mandate prior to its renewal or modification. That would not only contribute to achieving a greater sensitivity to field implications but would also help the Council to take decisions that are more in line with the challenges and opportunities prevailing in every situation.

Similarly, my delegation is convinced that a new vision of peacekeeping operations must have a very clear strategy in order to use the resources devoted to such operations more effectively and more efficiently. That is why we are grateful for the working document on a field support strategy, which Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra has shared with the Member States and which the General Assembly will consider in the near future.

At the same time, another of the main aspects within the different mandates of the peacekeeping operations is that of protecting civilians in armed conflicts, particularly women and children, and following up on its implementation. In that respect, we underscore the need to be more clear with respect to the elements that make up the mandates, the responsibilities that stem from them and the development of monitoring mechanisms for proper implementation.

With regard to peacebuilding, as we said in the debate on 22 July under the Ugandan presidency (see S/PV.6165), the initial stage immediately following the cessation of hostilities is a vital time for laying the bases for true peacebuilding.

The development of the political effort to promote reconciliation is particularly important. Confidence and national reconciliation are crucial aspects for outlining a framework that would incorporate the priorities that the local actors themselves would establish and that would enjoy the support of international teams. It would include a comprehensive vision of the role of the United Nations in political, humanitarian, security and development aspects.

We underscore the need for peacekeeping efforts to be accompanied by a political process aimed at strengthening the State apparatus and local human resources. Coherence and integration between peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding should be borne in mind from the point at which the Organization first approaches a conflict situation. Likewise, we must design proper transition strategies, including the responsible transfer of authority to national institutions and the gradual withdrawal of a peacekeeping operation after a stable climate has been established.

Lastly, Mr. President, we congratulate you and your delegation on preparing the draft presidential statement and we fully support its adoption.

Mr. Mugoya (Uganda): Uganda congratulates you, Mr. President, and the United Kingdom delegation on your assumption of the office of the President of the Security Council for the month of August. We also thank you for organizing this important debate and welcome the participation of United Nations force commanders. The timing could not have been better.

I wish to thank Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra for their very informative briefings to the Council. I also thank General Agwai, Force Commander of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur, for sharing his experiences with the Council.

Since the year began, we have witnessed a number of initiatives undertaken to improve United Nations peacekeeping operations. We commend all these efforts because they have facilitated greater interaction between the various stakeholders at different levels, which will further enhance practical progress in United Nations peacekeeping. It is necessary that we sustain these efforts.

This debate comes at a time when United Nations efforts to resolve conflicts by peaceful means are being put to the test by new threats to global peace and security. Impunity, terrorism, piracy and other forms of social injustices meted out by non-State actors are on the rise in the theatres of peacekeeping operations. The humanitarian consequences of these actions on innocent civilians, including women and children, are alarming.

Therefore, Uganda considers the following points to be key. First, it is important to recognize that an ineffective United Nations peacekeeping capability anywhere around the world greatly undermines the credibility of the United Nations in the eyes of the public. It is imperative that United Nations peacekeeping be adaptable to emerging challenges, such as we have seen in Somalia. A shift to more robust and comprehensive United Nations peacekeeping, such as we have seen in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, can yield positive results.

Robust peacekeeping is what the United Nations requires to ensure the protection of civilians, United Nations personnel and humanitarian aid workers in the field today. However, to that end a clear understanding of the situation on the ground is required, and the missions must be provided with the necessary capabilities to effectively implement their various mandates.

Secondly, the relationship between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries is crucial, and there is a need to strengthen the existing mechanisms for engagement. It is crucial because it is they that implement the mandates on the ground, where they often face considerable risk.

It is fundamental that political objectives and peacekeeping mandates for missions be clear and credible. A stronger understanding among troop and police contributors, donor countries and the Security Council as to what is expected of peacekeepers in fulfilling these objectives can greatly facilitate the achievement of mission objectives. Uganda therefore supports Security Council efforts to strengthen cooperation and interaction amongst stakeholders in peacekeeping operations.

Thirdly, the challenges of modern peacekeeping, as we have seen in recent times, clearly indicate that not even the United Nations is capable of tackling the challenges on its own. The United Nations should fast-track its efforts to broaden the contributor base by working with partners at the regional and subregional levels. It should take advantages of these capacities and build on the efforts so far taken in this regard.

The United Nations should take maximum advantage of the strengths of regional organizations, such as the African Union, and of subregional organizations, such as the Southern Africa Development Community, the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and of the roles they can play. However, this requires a deliberate and conscious effort to establish strategic relationships with these organizations in order to strengthen their capacity to contribute to United Nations efforts in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Fourthly, early consideration of peacebuilding activities during the peacekeeping stage is critical to the success of peacekeeping missions. Without tangible peace dividends, such as the provision of basic services like health care, education, shelter, and the improvement of the standards of living of populations affected by conflict, the chances of peace are very slim. There is therefore an urgent need for the United Nations system to ensure greater coherence in peacekeeping, peacemaking, peacebuilding and development activities. Uganda therefore supports efforts aimed at more comprehensive United Nations peacekeeping.

Uganda pays tribute to the men and women of the United Nations for their tireless sacrifice. They serve in some of the most dangerous and hostile places in the world but continue to keep many people safe and give them hope. We especially remember and honour those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace.

Finally, we thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for the draft presidential statement, which my delegation fully supports.

Mr. Tiendrébéogo (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): Allow me, on behalf of the delegation of Burkina Faso, to congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Council for this month, and to pay a well-deserved tribute to the delegation of Uganda for the effectiveness with which it steered the work of the Council in July.

I would also like to thank you and your delegation for having organized this debate and for having submitted the New Horizon non-paper, which has been extremely useful in preparing for this debate. We have an opportunity to pursue our consideration of the important issue of peacekeeping operations and the ways and means to ensure that they are better managed.

We thank Mr. Le Roy, Ms. Malcorra and General Agwai for their very enriching briefings and their contributions to the ongoing reflection process.

My delegation endorses the statement to be made by the representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

As a troop-contributing country, Burkina Faso is closely following the reflection under way on how to improve peacekeeping operations performance in the context of new and pressing requirements, for which, unfortunately, resources are lacking.

The effectiveness and potential success of operations require above all clear, feasible mandates adapted to the realities on the ground. To that end, United Nations forces must be equipped with broad deterrence capacities and pay greater attention to the rules of engagement, logistics and mission planning. That cannot be done without the support of all stakeholders — donor countries, troop-contributing countries, the Security Council, the Secretariat and host countries.

Similarly, the specific issue of financing remains critical. Nevertheless, no decision on deploying a new mission or adjusting the mandate of an existing mission should be subordinate exclusively to its estimated budget. Decisions need to be guided by the

sole concern of preserving international peace and security.

The Security Council and the General Assembly, specifically via the Fifth Committee, each need to exercise their authorities in accordance with the Charter. Along these lines, and like others, we believe that the response to the financial challenges of peacekeeping operations should not be the automatic closing of certain missions that remain necessary to restoring peace. This means that only an objective evaluation should guide our decisions in this area.

Related to the drafting of mandates and the success of peacekeeping operations is the question of strengthen.ng triangular cooperation among troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat.

We note and welcome the dynamic nature of that cooperation, which has led, inter alia, to a variety of initiatives in the Security Council, the Secretariat and the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations that allow the three entities regularly to exchange views on the various aspects of peacekeeping operations. While we hope that this strengthening will continue, the United Nations needs better and more deeply to engage and involve regional and subregional organizations, which also have a role to play in the success of operations.

We need hardly recall that the African Union and the African subregional organizations should be special partners of the United Nations because, unfortunately, Africa is host to a number of peacekeeping operations. General Agwai's testimony on the challenges facing the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur deserves the greatest attention and should inspire the work of the Council and all players involved in the process of strengthening the operationalization of peacekeeping operations.

Another issue of note is the support of peacekeeping operations for the political process. Peacekeeping operations should not be alternatives to the peace process. If their support role is to be more effective, we must strive to ensure effective cooperation among all key players, particularly mediators, special representatives and heads of mission. Moreover, troops must be better informed of agreements to resolve conflicts and commitments made by the different parties. That would be a decisive factor in the conduct of a mission and clearly help to ensure a more flexible transition to peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

The protection of civilians in armed conflict has always been a major challenge to the United Nations. Because it remains critical, it requires greater attention. In that context, yesterday's adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1882 (2009) is to be commended.

With respect to the ongoing brainstorming process, my delegation believes that it remains possible to benefit from all the recommendations contained in the Brahimi report (S/2000/809), other reports and resolutions of the Security Council, despite the fact that circumstances have changed over time and certain realities on the ground have required us to adapt. At the same time, if the most recent initiatives are to be true agents of change, they must enjoy the broadest possible support of Member States. In that regard, the ongoing and inclusive communications between the members of the Security Council, the Secretariat, the troop-contributing countries and all bodies relevant to peacekeeping operations, as established by the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations chaired by Japan, can be excellent sources of inspiration. We believe that with such an approach and within the most appropriate frameworks, all current initiatives on peacekeeping operations, including the Secretariat's New Horizon initiative, could be considered more fruitfully and enjoy consensus in the future.

We therefore encourage all players to continue to follow the path of ongoing coordination, which is the only way to strengthen trust and ensure the greater effectiveness of United Nations involvement in the field.

Mr. Liu Zhenmin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation thanks you, Sir, for convening today's open debate. We also thank the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support for their joint report on charting a New Horizon for United Nations peacekeeping. I further thank Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra and General Agwai for their briefings.

Since its inception 60 years ago, United Nations peacekeeping has made a positive contribution to maintaining world peace and security and has won the confidence and support of Member States. Over the past six decades, ongoing efforts have been made to reform and adapt United Nations peacekeeping operations to changing circumstances. Multifunctional

integrated missions have become the prevailing trend in the development of peacekeeping operations. The expanded scope, mandates and funding requirements of relevant peacekeeping missions have also given rise to new problems. United Nations peacekeeping operations face new difficulties and challenges in the areas of policy parity, financial support, planning and management.

China supports wide-ranging consultations between Member States and relevant parties in order to reach consensus and advance peacekeeping reform. We welcome the views and proposals of Member States and the Secretariat on enhancing the efficiency of peacekeeping operations and strengthening international cooperation in peacekeeping.

With respect to the issues addressed in the New Horizon non-paper, I should like to make the following five points regarding the ongoing reform of peacekeeping operations.

First, the United Nations should focus particular attention on formulating an integrated conflict prevention and resolution strategy. Equal attention should be paid to the deployment of peacekeeping operations and the promotion of political negotiations. With respect to potential conflict situations, the United Nations should make greater efforts in the area of preventive diplomacy, launch early interventions and do its utmost to defuse tensions. Efforts must also be made to bring the good offices of the Secretary-General and his special envoys into full play, and to support the peace initiatives of regional and subregional organizations. If we reverse the trend of favouring conflict resolution over prevention, and engage earnestly in conflict prevention, we could make it less necessary to deploy peacekeeping operations. In deploying such operations, the Organization should also focus more on promoting political dialogue and reconciliation so that there is a peace to keep.

Secondly, peacekeeping reform requires innovation and adherence to basic principles. Experience has shown that the Hammarskjöld principles are important guarantees of the success of peacekeeping operations and remain effective in practice. The tripartite mechanism of the Sudan, the United Nations and the African Union has played an active role in the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, clearly demonstrating the importance of enhanced communications and new partnerships with host countries. Peacekeeping operations must exercise caution in the use of force and avoid excessive emphasis on military options. Given the ongoing divergence of views on mandating peacekeeping operations to protect civilians, further in-depth discussions on that issue will be necessary.

Thirdly, the Security Council should improve the authorization, planning and management of peacekeeping operations. There is broad consensus that the mandates of peacekeeping operations should be clearly defined and achievable. In considering the deployment of such operations, the Security Council should take into full account the political environment, the security situation, economic and social conditions and other relevant factors in the country concerned, as well as the resources available to the relevant peacekeeping operation. In that way, mandates and clear priorities can be formulated in the light of specific conditions. The Security Council should also closely monitor the implementation of mandates and, in due time, develop exit strategies for peacekeeping operations. Close interaction between the Security Council and the Secretariat is of critical importance during the deployment or extension of peacekeeping operations.

Fourthly, Member States are duty-bound to endow peacekeeping operations with adequate resources, while operations should use their resources more efficiently. China believes that Member States should pay their assessed contributions in full and on time so as to ensure the smooth functioning of peacekeeping operations. In order to meet the ever-growing demand for peacekeeping, serious consideration must be given to the idea of exploring innovative financing channels. We support the Secretariat's ongoing effort to improve its logistics support system, optimize the operational procedures of peacekeeping operations, and expedite their deployment. At present, most troop contributors are developing countries. We call on more countries to contribute troops to peacekeeping operations.

Fifthly, the United Nations should continue to attach great importance to enhancing cooperation with regional organizations in the field of peacekeeping activities. Africa's special needs especially deserve our attention. Currently, about 75 per cent of United Nations peacekeeping personnel are deployed in Africa, and about 70 per cent of peacekeeping assessments are spent there.

The African Union is playing an increasingly important role in preventing and resolving conflicts on the continent. The United Nations should continue to strengthen its peacekeeping partnership with the African Union and to help Africa improve its peacekeeping capacity-building. China looks forward to receiving the Secretary-General's report on practical ways to effectively support the African Union.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): I would first like to thank the United Kingdom presidency for organizing this debate, giving the Council the opportunity to take stock after six months of reform discussions. Let me also thank Under-Secretaries-General Alain Le Roy and Susana Malcorra for their presentations.

Austria aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

We were particularly pleased to see General Martin Luther Agwai and his colleagues in the Council today. Austria hopes that the presence of force commanders in Council meetings dealing with peacekeeping issues will become a regular practice. Briefings by military experts provide accurate information on the real-life challenges peacekeeping missions face and are thus indispensable to the Council's decision-making.

The past few months have seen a great increase in the dialogue on peacekeeping. We need to pursue this effort systematically when dealing with specific missions as well. A more systematic dialogue between Council members and troop-contributing countries, as well as with the Secretariat, is the best way to close the gap that often still exists between the Council as a mandating body and the Member States whose forces are supposed to implement Council mandates.

The draft presidential statement before us today rightly identifies the implementation of protection mandates in peacekeeping operations as one of the areas requiring further debate within the Council and among Member States, and I certainly agree with the representative of China that this topic demands further in-depth discussion. From our point of view, some of the questions that we ought to reflect on during the coming months are the following.

How can we match the challenges of a particular protection task with a realistic assessment of the available resources? How can we best avoid disparities between a mission's protection mandate, its composition and the resources required? How can the various parties involved — the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop contributors and host countries — help define realistic protection scenarios that provide a clear framework of action for peacekeepers on the ground? And how can we improve the Council's monitoring and oversight with a view to enhancing the effective implementation of such mandates?

We hope that the independent study commissioned by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will provide answers to these questions. We also hope to make further progress on these issues in the framework of the debate on the protection of civilians that Austria plans to organize during its presidency of the Council in November.

Our peacekeeping efforts will meet with success only if we are able to respond to crisis situations in a timely and effective manner. We therefore support a capability-driven approach that concentrates on skills, capacity and equipment, with a special focus on potential resource gaps. Not only is this in the interest of the effectiveness of our missions, but it is also essential to the security of our peacekeepers.

While recognizing the need to increase the pool of troop and police contributors, we have to be aware that Member States have only one set of forces that they deploy in various frameworks. We must therefore increase our emphasis on pooling resources and enhancing force integration training, be it at the level of the United Nations or of regional organizations. In this regard, we believe the United Nations could draw on existing experience and knowledge within regional organizations.

We are, of course, aware that the United Nations operates in a unique global setting. Lessons learned at the regional level are not automatically applicable in the global context of the Organization. We nonetheless believe that we should study whether such concepts as that of the framework nation, developed at the regional level for particularly demanding multinational peace operations, might not also be relevant to some United Nations peacekeeping situations.

We also have to take into consideration that the United Nations and regional organizations increasingly cooperate in peacekeeping by acting together or sequentially. It is in the interests of all parties involved

to base this cooperation on standardized framework arrangements. At the same time, United Nations mandates are and will remain essential, both in view of the provisions of the Charter and to achieve a clear and efficient division of labour between all international actors involved in specific peacekeeping efforts. In this context, we also look forward to the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on how to provide effective support for African Union peacekeeping operations. We support a substantial and open-minded debate of all the proposals in the Prodi report (S/2008/813).

We welcome the clear connection made in the draft presidential statement between peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. For this reason, we also think that the Council should further deepen its cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission. Let me also add that Austria sees the need for a new field support strategy that takes into account the important contributions peace operations can make to the sustainable socio-economic development of the region in which they are deployed, and I heartily agree with what Under-Secretary-General Malcorra said on this subject.

In conclusion, let me express my country's full support for the draft presidential statement to be adopted later today. We would like to thank you, Sir, and your delegation for all your efforts in preparing this comprehensive and well-balanced text. It shows how far this debate has moved forward since the beginning of the year, when France and the United Kingdom started this discussion. It also demonstrates how much still needs to be done.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): Mr. President, first let me thank you for organizing today's open debate, which is indeed a very timely one. I would also like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for August.

I wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Ugandan mission for its efficient work during its presidency in July. I also wish to thank Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra, as well as General Martin Luther Agwai, for their useful and thought-provoking briefings. General Agwai's first-hand experience on the ground was particularly enlightening and helpful.

I would also like to take this opportunity to salute all the United Nations force commanders who were with us this morning, and through them convey our heartfelt gratitude to all the men and women who serve peace under their blue berets in some of the most dangerous parts of the world. Our hearts and prayers are always with them, but I know they want more than that, and rightly so. They need a more efficient peacekeeping system that provides them with the necessary mandate, guidance and resources and that duly honours the heroism of the United Nations peacekeepers who risk their lives in the line of duty day in and night out.

That is indeed why we are here. For the eight months since the launch of the joint France-United Kingdom initiative, we have extensively discussed several aspects of peacekeeping reform in various forums. We believe it is now time to take stock of what has been said and done so far with a view to charting a practical way forward.

To date, what has come out of our discussions in no ambiguous terms is a broad consensus on the need to reform the way we run our peacekeeping operations in the United Nations. There is explicit agreement that the entire United Nations peacekeeping system is plagued by serious problems and stretched to the point where the risk of failure has become intolerable.

It is also unmistakably clear that peacekeeping operations are seen as the showcase of United Nations efforts to advance the ideals and principles enshrined in its Charter. Thus, what is at stake is the credibility of the United Nations itself, with enormous implications for whether we will or will not be able to deliver on the promises of the Organization in the future.

What has been even more striking throughout this review process is that there is also broad agreement on what needs to be done. The previous open debate (see S/PV.6153) organized in June under our own presidency of the Council, for instance, brought out those points of convergence in a most lucid manner.

In principle, everyone concurred that we need earlier and more meaningful consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries; that we should engage and encourage regional organizations, notably the African Union, to assume a greater role in peacekeeping and help them strengthen their capacities; that we have to come up with clear and achievable mandates, matched by the necessary resources and driven by existing capabilities; that we ought to improve the level of information and analysis available to us about the operational environment, in

particular military advice; that we must make better use of benchmarks to monitor progress and to make the necessary adjustments along the way; that we should always have a political strategy that will guide all the efforts of the international community, including peacekeeping operations; that we must have a holistic and robust approach to peace, integrating peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding into one single strategy, including the protection of civilians; and that we need to invest more in preventive measures, including mediation, so as to settle conflicts through peaceful means.

Yet, what was and is still missing are the practical steps that will help translate this collective understanding and commitment into a renewed and more effective partnership, drawing together the strengths of all stakeholders.

This is why we greatly welcome the non-paper prepared by the Secretariat, which proposes a new partnership agenda with a view to charting a new horizon for United Nations peacekeeping. Frankly speaking, we are still examining the paper and its recommendations, but what we like about it is its practical and action-oriented nature. Thus, we are confident that it will provide us with the necessary momentum and framework to build upon our next steps.

To that end, however, we Member States need immediately to start taking up each and every recommendation of the non-paper and see how we can put them into practice or why we cannot. In other words, the Secretariat gave us a rich menu of options and practical suggestions. It is now up to us to take them to the operational level.

This exercise should be an all-inclusive one. Every major stakeholder, including the Security Council and its Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission and of course the Secretariat itself, all have a role to play, or better, a responsibility to deliver.

As to the time frame of this endeavour, on the other hand, we believe that we can and should aim at a deadline of early next year to put in place at least the initial and most essential elements of this new undertaking. Indeed, 2010 will mark the tenth anniversary of the Brahimi report (S/2000/809) and the culmination of the "Peace Operations 2010" reform process. There is now a chance for us to make the year 2010 a milestone for United Nations peacekeeping operations. We should not lose this window of opportunity.

Turkey is ready and willing to take an active part in this important enterprise. As a traditional troop- and police-contributing country to the United Nations and other international peace operations, we know by heart the difficulties encountered in the United Nations peacekeeping system, and will do our best to help bring about a new and results-oriented consensus on United Nations peacekeeping.

Finally, we thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for preparing a draft presidential statement for this meeting, which we fully support.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): First of all, allow me to thank the United Kingdom presidency for convening this important debate on one of the most important issues for the United Nations and this Council — the question of United Nations peacekeeping. Allow me to also use this opportunity to thank Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra for their interventions, as well as Force Commander General Martin Luther Agwai of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for his candid overview from the perspective of peacekeeping force commanders working in the field.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement to be delivered later by the representative of Sweden, so allow me to just raise several points of interest.

While it is true that the traditional peacekeeping of past decades has slowly given way to the more robust, multidimensional and integrative peacekeeping of today, when addressing the question of peacekeeping we must not lose sight of the fact that it is probably one of the most important tools available to the United Nations in general, and to the Security Council in particular — a symbiotic relationship that has existed from the time of the establishment of this Organization.

The question before us, however, is not about the worth of peacekeeping operations as a concept, but instead is a deliberation on the possible measures or recommendations before us for streamlining the work of peacekeepers in the field and on how to improve cooperation, not only within the United Nations system

itself, but also between the Secretariat and the Security Council and, inversely, between the United Nations, the Security Council and the general membership, including troop-contributing countries and especially affected States. In short, what are we doing to improve the quality and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping and cooperation between and within all its constituent parts?

The Brahimi report (S/2000/809), the New Horizon non-paper and the United Kingdom/France initiative give us numerous good ideas. We also note with great interest the strategic paper of the new Department of Field Support. We commend the work of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, and support many of the suggested guidelines provided in those documents for one primary reason — they stress that the United Nations acts under the premise that conflict cannot and should be resolved not first and foremost by military means, but rather by addressing problems at their root causes. Time and again in our debates, we have heard a call to the parties to a conflict to resolve their differences through political dialogue, with the United Nations, including its peacekeeping missions, acting as an intermediary in achieving this goal.

These reports also stress that each United Nations peacekeeping mission needs to be tailored according to concrete conditions on the ground and the political realities prevailing at the time of their establishment. A clear political strategy and integrated mission planning are, to this end, extremely important and should include the provision of a precisely defined mandate with clear and achievable benchmarks and goals and a clear exit strategy. In refining ideas on how best to go about this, we agree that the Council can improve peacekeeping effectiveness through stricter monitoring and oversight of its mandated tasks, including through the establishment of and reporting on benchmarks.

That being said, we would like to stress that, in multidimensional peacekeeping, reporting on benchmarks should address not only issues of immediate security or military concern, but also long-term issues such as the protection of civilians, the strengthening of civil society, security sector reform, including the strengthening of police and judicial forces, and economic revitalization and development. Development is especially important since, unless a host country is assisted in returning to self-sustainability, recourse to violence can and quite often does happen, as has been demonstrated by returning peacekeeping operations to countries in West Africa, for example.

The new robust way of approaching peacekeeping also brings together a plethora of United Nations and other international or regional actors, often with similar or overlapping goals. I believe that no one questions the benefit of burden-sharing when it comes to peacekeeping, with strengthened cooperation with regional and subregional organizations or among various United Nations and international agencies operating in-country, with the United Nations and the Security Council taking on the primary role. Streamlining their operations in-country is the overriding goal, essentially so as not to waste or duplicate much needed resources — a task that can most effectively be provided by the United Nations and its peacekeepers.

Croatia particularly supports all proposals aimed at greater coordination and strengthening of relations among the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries. As mentioned in the New Horizon non-paper, the Secretariat alone cannot structure missions without intense cooperation with Member States, while Member States similarly draw upon the experience of the United Nations in strengthening their national capacities. We reiterate that it is clearly counterproductive to plan a peacekeeping operation without the unambiguous support of a core number of nations willing to provide troops for a proposed mission. For that reason, we believe that outreach to potential and actual troop-contributing countries must be a high priority.

Before I finish, allow me to highlight once again an issue that we deem exceptionally important, especially in the light of the ever-increasing burden, both financial and logistical, being placed on United Nations peacekeeping and its troop contributors. Croatia firmly believes that, in weighing the full range of responses to threats to international peace and security, the Security Council can and should pose itself the question of whether the preventative deployment of a small number of peacekeeping troops can stem the outbreak of wider conflict at its genesis. Such a decision not only has the potential to save scores of lives, but can also lessen later financial and logistical burdens on the United Nations and its Member States. For us, the value of such a response is self-evident.

In conclusion, let me express our gratitude to you personally, Mr. President, and your delegation for preparing the draft presidential statement, which we fully support.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of the United Kingdom.

In my introduction to this debate, I referred to United Nations peacekeeping as a unique global partnership and, over the past six months, I have been struck by the extent to which we have a shared understanding of the challenges that we face and how we can overcome them. That substantial common ground has been made clear again today.

I think that we all agree on the central principle that peacekeeping can only support a political strategy; it cannot replace it. We all agree on the importance of having mission mandates that clearly reflect achievable objectives and in which tasks are prioritized. We also agree on the need to enhance consultations with those countries that contribute troops, police and other units to peacekeeping operations.

I think that there are three things on which we now need to focus, and those are captured in the draft presidential statement that we look forward to adopting later today.

First is a commitment to building on the work that we have done in recent months, paying greater attention to the monitoring and evaluation of missions, more realistic mandates; greater involvement of the troop- and police-contributing countries, and better information-sharing between the Secretariat and political and military experts of the countries concerned. We have made some progress. We have much more still to do, as many colleagues have said.

Secondly, we need to take advantage of opportunities, such as under the forthcoming Austrian presidency in November, to develop a wider consensus on the critical tasks that we expect modern peacekeepers to perform. We know that today's conflicts require a complex range of responses from peacekeepers. They must help to protect civilian populations, monitor and protect human rights, work to build fledgling police forces and judiciaries in support of national authorities, and support electoral processes. Those activities are all essential to the wider peacebuilding process.

To deliver success in peacekeeping, we must ensure that it is part of a longer-term effort to build a sustainable peace. That requires coordination with a wide range of partners with specialist skills from within the United Nations, funds and programmes, international financial institutions, and regional and subregional organizations. It is that approach that represents the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and the greater integration and coordination of effort of which we often speak.

Thirdly, we should support the call from our colleagues in the Secretariat — the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support — to establish a new horizon for United Nations peacekeeping. We have heard much support for the recommendations made in their recent non-paper in statements today.

Those are not issues that can be tackled by the Security Council alone; nor should they be. During the rest of today's debate, I look forward to hearing ideas, perspectives and views from across the peacekeeping partnership, including from Member States that contribute personnel to operations and money to finance them.

The Council should continue to support the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Secretariat as we take forward what is a very challenging agenda, set out in the draft presidential statement that we will adopt this afternoon.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Sweden.

Mr. Lidén (Sweden): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. In addition, Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

Let me begin by expressing the European Union's appreciation for the way that the United Nations has managed the unprecedented expansion of its peacekeeping activities. United Nations peacekeepers serve in conflict zones on a scale that few could have foreseen 10 years ago.

Next year will mark the tenth anniversary of the landmark Brahimi process, which paved the way for

ambitious reforms and a new era for United Nations peacekeeping. Today, United Nations peacekeeping is again at a critical juncture. As noted by Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra, the system is stretched to the point at which some missions face the risk of failure. That would have serious consequences not only for international peace and security, but also for international cooperation.

We commend the Secretariat for its non-paper on charting a new horizon for United Nations peacekeeping, and the Security Council for the review that it has undertaken over the past months on the basis of the French-British initiative. Those activities, together with other initiatives, such as the Challenges Forum, have generated a set of ideas and recommendations that would better position United Nations peacekeeping to respond to current and future challenges.

Today's debate is very timely. It provides an opportunity to take stock of progress made in adapting United Nations peacekeeping to new demands and to set a course for work in the years to come.

After the catastrophic events in Bosnia and Rwanda in the 1990s, the United Nations went through a period of soul-searching. It proved that the Organization was capable of learning from setbacks and adapting to the changing demands of global peacekeeping. It is encouraging that the surge of United Nations peacekeeping, while putting difficult strains on the Organization, has been marked by a similar determination. The Secretariat's reform agenda "Peace Operations 2010" has been an important step towards a more professional and effective approach to United Nations peacekeeping.

That agenda should now be taken a step further. We need to build a new political consensus on the strategic context of peacekeeping and on the role of the United Nations membership and regional partners in providing collective support to peacekeeping. The challenge is to ensure that gaps between needs, expectations and performance are minimized.

Since the issuance of the Brahimi report (S/2000/809), decisive improvements have been achieved, but many of the challenges identified in the report remain and there are new demands that need to be addressed. The financial crisis puts additional pressure on United Nations peacekeeping, as does the current overstretch of military, police and civilian resources faced by many Member States.

The New Horizon paper is an excellent basis for seeking a new consensus on United Nations peacekeeping. Its recommendations provide us with a coherent and realistic framework for future improvements. They should guide our work in the period ahead.

While the European Union believes that it is necessary to consider all of the recommendations in a positive spirit, at this stage we would like to draw attention to a few points of strategic importance to developing the partnerships called for in the New Horizon non-paper.

First, with regard to burden-sharing, countries make varying contributions to peacekeeping, and regional organizations are taking on an increasing share of the burden. A dialogue should be initiated between the United Nations and its partners on what various stakeholders can bring to the table, how we can improve cooperation and enhance our interoperability, and whether missions are carried out under the auspices of the United Nations or those of other organizations.

My second point concerns consultations. There is a need to develop closer mechanisms for consultation among the various actors involved in peacekeeping. The report outlines a number of concrete recommendations on how that could be done. We must seek mechanisms that bring various stakeholders on board at an early stage, while ensuring a proper balance between effectiveness and inclusiveness and without creating unnecessary bureaucracy. The implementation of the 2003 and 2007 joint statements on United Nations-European Union Cooperation in Crisis Management are important contributions in that respect.

Thirdly, concerning mission management, the "Peace Operations 2010" agenda should be carried through and steps taken to continue to enhance professionalism and the management of missions to ensure that they have the resources and support necessary to carry out their mandates effectively. As recognized in the report, peacekeeping missions cannot be planned or carried out in isolation from the political context in which they are to operate. Devising a political strategy is a fundamental task that should include exit perspectives.

The European Union welcomes the Secretary-General's recent report on peacebuilding (S/2009/304), which highlights some of the challenges in that respect and demonstrates the close links between peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

In December, 10 years will have passed since the launching of the European Security and Defence Policy, which is the basis for the European Union's peacekeeping efforts. Some 20 European Union civilian and military peacekeeping missions have been carried out so far, several of them in close cooperation with the United Nations. The experiences of the European Union over the past decade in this area have ranged from those of small observer missions to those of complex undertakings including both civilian and military components. Cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations has been enhanced along the way — most recently, through the transfer of responsibilities between the two organizations in Chad and Kosovo. The European Union has also developed close collaboration with important regional actors, in particular through its strategic partnership with the African Union.

It has rightly been stated that, in peacekeeping, no one size fits all. The process of forming partnerships and sharing the burden must continue with a view to finding the best collective response to global and regional conflicts on the basis of our various perspectives, experiences and capabilities. The New Horizon non-paper should be the starting point for new political momentum in that regard. The European Union intends to be an active partner in that process.

The President: I now call on the representative of Norway.

Mr. Wetland (Norway): I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address this important issue. We also thank Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra and General Agwai for their important briefings. The challenges to United Nations peacekeeping must continue to be a top priority on our agenda, and we appreciate the efforts of the Security Council to intensify dialogue with Member States on that issue.

Let me begin by reiterating a point made by our French colleague in the Security Council debate on 29 June (see S/PV.6153). He said that our ability to protect civilians is the standard by which United Nations peacekeeping will be judged. The renewed fighting in eastern Congo last week reminded us of how much that ability is needed. Thousands of civilians have been forced to flee their homes, and we know only too well the suffering that follows in the wake of such incidents. Girls and women face the additional horrors of sexual violence, and we must put forces in place that can effectively deter such crimes. We look forward to discussing this further on Friday.

My second point concerns the need to meet the ever-increasing demand for peacekeepers and to secure the necessary resources. While we need to solicit more contributions from present contributors, we also need greater commitment from countries not yet contributing to their full potential. Peacekeeping is a global responsibility and calls for the widest possible engagement of the international community.

My third point concerns the need for mandates to be accompanied by sufficient resources. Committing men and women in uniform to potentially life-threatening assignments in foreign countries is one of the most difficult decisions a country can take. But when such decisions are made, Governments and their people must be certain that missions have the resources to fulfil their mandates, with the lowest possible level of risk for personnel in the field. That means proper training, proper equipment and full capacity in line with the demands made.

We need to move from a somewhat obsessive focus on troop numbers to a focus on quality and total capability. That means that we have to develop standards and link them to training, equipping and delivery on the ground. We are pleased to see that this is another key point made in the New Horizon non-paper. In addition, let me emphasize the need to develop common standards with key partners, such as NATO, the African Union and the European Union. That will facilitate cooperation, whether it is a joint effort, as in Kosovo, or a sequential arrangement, as in Chad.

My fourth and final point relates to the relationship among peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. Peacekeeping is part of a wider United Nations and global peace, security and development effort. Mandates must be aligned with other, complementing initiatives and supported politically and financially.

Norway supports the Secretariat's recommendation that missions be requested to include

information on progress in peacebuilding in their assessment of mandated tasks. Missions should also report on related actions of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other partners, and all partners must be called upon to draw attention to critical gaps.

In conclusion, let me underline the fact that the most important partner in the United Nations peacekeeping partnership is the host country. That needs to be foremost in our minds when we continue this discussion in the coming months. The international community can and should assist, but it is the host country that bears the responsibility for finding solutions that will last. We need an open and honest discussion on how we in the international community can work together to better keep the promises we make to those in need, and how we can make peacekeeping deliver more at a time when so much is called for. Norway looks forward to being an active participant in that process and to continuing the dialogue.

The President: I now call on the representative of New Zealand.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): I join preceding speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council and in thanking you for convening this debate. I also thank Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra and General Agwai for their comprehensive briefings and their work.

Peacekeeping is one of the primary instruments that we, the Members of the United Nations, have created to fulfil our Charter aspiration to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Peacekeeping is the Organization's most difficult and highest-profile activity, and it is the one by which we are most critically judged. That is as it should be, for our peacekeeping successes and failures are matters of life and death for those whom we are entrusted to protect.

New Zealand has long supported the United Nations peacekeeping cause. We join those who gratefully salute our peacekeepers. Theirs is an activity that has undergone a dramatic transition from traditional ceasefire monitoring to today's complex, multidimensional, robust and non-conventional missions in a significantly expanded number of conflict zones. All that has imposed an unsustainable burden on United Nations resources and led to serious challenges in respect of mandate implementation, sustained political support, supply of personnel, management, leadership and financing.

Against that background, if we are to achieve our shared goals, we — the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Secretariat, contributing countries and host States — need an open and honest discussion and must accept a shared responsibility for addressing those challenges and shortcomings. We cannot allow United Nations peacekeeping to be discredited by our failure to respond to and address today's peacekeeping reality.

Many of the ideas before us today are not new. The recommendations of the Brahimi report (S/2000/809), made nearly 10 years ago, are still valid, but many have not been implemented and some have not even been addressed. New Zealand believes that, in 10 years time, we should not find ourselves still lamenting over recommendations that have not been the subject of concerted and timely action. To ensure that that does not happen, we must take a structured, focused and practical approach to working through the issues.

We take this opportunity to comment on six issues which warrant further attention.

First, effective logistical support is critical to the success of every mission. The deployment of larger missions into areas with long supply chains and the need for partnership with private-sector providers obliges the United Nations to take a fresh look at the whole issue of mission support, which we anticipate will be addressed by the forthcoming field support strategy.

Secondly, significant benefit can be gained from a partnership of States and regional organizations to provide sustained political and practical support for a mission. We know this from our own practical experience. New Zealand is fortunate to work closely with Timor-Leste, Australia, Portugal and others in promoting United Nations peace efforts in Timor-Leste. But we also know that, to ensure success, such support must continue well beyond the creation of a mandate.

Thirdly, we reiterate the ongoing importance of conflict prevention. Obviously, preventing conflict eases demand for future deployments, but to avoid a relapse into conflict, conflict prevention must also be

undertaken within and during peacekeeping missions. The United Nations can now focus its peacebuilding efforts through the standby team of mediation experts and the Mediation Support Unit. The team has already achieved encouraging results, but it is still underutilized, and we should encourage the special representatives of the Secretary-General and others to access this important resource.

Fourthly, New Zealand supports the ongoing work on robust peacekeeping and protection of civilians, and acknowledges the inevitability that, at times, peacekeepers will have to undertake both activities.

Fifth, the Brahimi report called for a major shift toward rule of law teams, with combined police, judicial, legal and human rights experts and with a rapid deployment capacity similar to that of military and police missions. We support the development of such a capacity by the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), but it must be focused in scope and duration to avoid duplicating the efforts of others.

Finally, New Zealand believes that the Office of Human Resources Management and DPKO need more capacity to deal with recruitment for peacekeeping missions. "People" is one of five key elements of the "Peace Operations 2010" reform agenda. Efficient recruitment and retention of quality people are crucial to the future of United Nations peacekeeping. We are hopeful that that will be improved and streamlined by the human resources system for United Nations peacekeepers. This issue is not addressed in depth in the New Horizon paper, but it is integral to the success of peacekeeping and deserves a renewed focus.

Two weeks ago, addressing this Council on peacebuilding, I observed that the image of the Blue Beret interposed between previously warring parties has become one of this Organization's successes. But we know that that is a fragile image that is challenged by imperfect logistics and chains of supply, by lack of coordination, by underutilization of mediation resources, by the ongoing vulnerability of civilians, by limited local legal frameworks, and by inadequate recruitment and retention. Any one of those shortcomings or any of those identified by others in this debate puts a peacekeeping mission at risk. Taken collectively, they could put the whole peacekeeping framework at risk. Therefore, all of them must be addressed.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Ms. Dunlop (Brazil): At the outset, let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Council for the month of August, and thank Ambassador Rugunda for ably steering the Council in July. I thank you for organizing this open debate. The fact that the Security Council is holding two debates on the future of peacekeeping in a span of a few weeks shows its commitment to a strengthened dialogue with the membership and the Secretariat on an extremely crucial issue.

I also thank Under-Secretary-Generals Alain Le Roy and Susana Malcorra for their informative briefings and the considerable efforts their Departments have made in producing the non-paper entitled "A new partnership agenda: charting a new horizon for United Nations peacekeeping". Furthermore, I want to thank General Martin Luther Agwai, Force Commander of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, for his valuable comments from the perspective of realities on the ground. I note with satisfaction the presence at this meeting of almost all of the commanding officers of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The Secretariat's non-paper highlights the challenging gap between the magnitude and complexity of modern United Nations peacekeeping and the resources — human, institutional and material — available to it. Addressing this gap is vital not only for international peace and security, but also for the Organization. Its long-term legitimacy and prestige will be influenced by how effectively we manage peacekeeping in the coming years.

That is why we need a true partnership among the Security Council, the wider membership, in particular troop-contributing countries, and the Secretariat. In order to be fully productive, our cooperation must be all-encompassing in making strategic decisions on the future of peacekeeping as such; in assessing, in concrete cases, whether there is a peace to keep or whether peacekeeping is appropriate; and in defining sustainable drawdown and exit strategies.

As noted in the non-paper, our success will ultimately depend on the commitment and political will

of Member States, which will be easier to obtain if the decision-making process is — and is perceived to be — as fair, objective and inclusive as possible.

Today, my delegation wishes to comment on but one substantive issue discussed in the Secretariat non-paper, namely, the relationship between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. As an increasing number of missions have been sent to developing countries, where conflict is often related to one form of deprivation or another, we have started to better understand the linkages between peace and development. Many of us believe that, just as peacekeeping becomes a mere crutch in situations where political actors do not commit to reconciliation, peacekeeping cannot fully succeed when the socio-economic roots of many conflicts are not successfully addressed.

That does not mean that peacekeeping missions should replace United Nations funds, agencies and programmes in development assistance, or that the Security Council should act in matters beyond its competence under the Charter. Rather, it means that peacekeeping and peacebuilding, although distinct, have synergies that must not be overlooked or denied. On the contrary, without prejudice to the functions proper to peacekeeping missions, we must actively look for such synergies and, in each case, pragmatically choose the best available response to the concrete needs of a given conflict or post-conflict situation.

Quite often, especially in early recovery scenarios, some tasks are crucial to the short- and medium-term sustainability of fragile peace: rebuilding indispensable infrastructure, including that associated with or enabling law and order functions; resuming basic services and generating peace dividends that will ensure the support of the population for the difficult political decisions usually required for making and keeping agreements.

When confronted with such situations and others with similar needs, we must ask ourselves whether peacekeepers might not be part of our response. Sometimes they are the only or main United Nations presence on the ground and directly face a population reeling from the effects of conflict. They often have the institutional, logistical and human capabilities needed to perform some of those tasks, at least on an emergency basis.

Why should we not tap those resources, at least while other parts of the system and its partners get ready to make a meaningful contribution on the ground? Even when they are present or in later-stage post-conflict scenarios, peacekeeping missions may, in some cases, be in a position to help close critical gaps.

In addition to assisting the host country, an active contribution by peacekeeping operations to peacebuilding is advantageous to the missions themselves and the United Nations at large. The first see public support for them consolidated; the latter sees its name associated with concrete gains in the living standards of many people.

Exploring synergies between peacekeeping and peacebuilding may also have systemic benefits to the Organization and its Member States. It may help to expedite an early transition from one to the other and thereby reduce the demand for peacekeeping, with gains for the efficiency of the system as a whole.

In sum, in pursuing international peace and security, we should be pragmatic and flexible, while maintaining full conformity with the Charter. Clarity of functions and priorities should not give way to compartmentalized thinking that does not maximize scarce resources and prevents the United Nations from delivering as effectively as possible.

As to the other important issues discussed in the Secretariat's non-paper, Brazil stands ready to give them full consideration in the coming months both in the General Assembly, especially its Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and, to the extent possible, in the Council. A series of thematic discussions in the Special Committee in the fall might be a productive way to address the many crucial aspects raised by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. The Council can count on Brazil's active participation.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Gutiérrez (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I welcome your initiative, Mr. President, to convene this open debate, which is helping to generate a rich exchange of ideas and viewpoints on peacekeeping operations in the light of the challenge facing the Organization in meeting increased demands for more operations with fewer resources.

My delegation also welcomes the valuable briefings of Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Ms. Susana Malcorra, and Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Alain Le Roy, as well as that of General Martin Luther Agwai, Force Commander of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

Peru is firmly committed to the efforts of the Organization to ensure peacekeeping in the different regions of the world. Peru is present with military observers and officials in four peacekeeping operations in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur. We also contribute a company in Haiti and an official of our armed forces as the current Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

We welcome the fact that the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support have submitted a document that provides concepts and ideas for the establishment of a new agenda for peacekeeping operations.

We also acknowledge the efforts and interest of the delegations of France and the United Kingdom, as reflected in the document on peacekeeping operations that they submitted to the Security Council in February. That document sets out interesting approaches to addressing the challenges that the Organization faces in the area of peacekeeping operations.

Almost 10 years after the Brahimi report (S/2000/809) was issued, we have no choice but to begin a process that, following a thorough assessment, would allow us to rethink peacekeeping operations in order to make them more effective and capable of effectively ensuring the transition to peacebuilding, which, after all, is the desired goal.

Peru believes that the objective that must be pursued by peacekeeping operations is the commitment to and ownership of the peacekeeping process itself on the part of the country or countries involved. Operations must gear all their efforts to strengthening the institutions of those States, their capacities to resolve conflicts, and national sovereignty. The required international cooperation must also fit in with the framework established by Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, maintaining the universal nature and maintaining the standards and principles of peacekeeping operations.

In connection with this point, my delegation agrees with the document presented by the delegations of France and the United Kingdom in the sense that we are all responsible for promoting and ensuring peacekeeping. That is why it is important that we establish in the short term mechanisms to provide greater coordination between the Security Council, the Secretary-General, the Secretariat, the troop-contributing countries and the Member States that host peacekeeping operations.

Similarly, this dialogue must be intensified and include other bodies that have some influence in the areas where peacekeeping operations are taking place, such as the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Commission, among others.

Peacekeeping operations are a part of the set of instruments with which the Organization and the Member States respond to the demands of peacekeeping and regional and international security. They coexist with conflict prevention, the protection of civilians, the mediation and good offices of the Secretary-General, as well as the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Peru acknowledges the growing and valuable role that is played by regional and international organizations. The evolution of each of these elements and its impact on every peacekeeping operation require us to be flexible and to approach every case differently, with firm adherence to the Charter's principles.

We believe that it is important to generate a peace dividend or a stability dividend as a result of peacekeeping operations. Short-term activities, including quick impact projects, contribute to the success of our efforts. We also believe that we must explore different ways to better exploit the potential of peacekeeping forces in order to create synergies between mission mandates and the developing needs of countries where the missions are deployed.

As we have said in other open debates concerning issues that are directly related to peacekeeping operations, conflicts are multidimensional and, as a result, matters such as peace, security, development and human rights are all interrelated. Peacekeeping operations need to evolve towards a more comprehensive approach to the peace and security problems that they face. Such an approach must not only address the immediate causes of the conflicts but,

as previous speakers have noted, contribute effectively to developing coherent and consistent action on the part of international community that, in turn, make it possible to establish conditions conducive to sustainable peace and security — in other words, an effective peacebuilding process. Strengthening military adviser teams would promote strategic planning that takes all the elements involved in implementing a peacekeeping operation into account and ensures that they will achieve the desired results.

In this regard, my delegation notes that the new architecture of peacekeeping operations we seek to define, and the resulting changes in operational mandates, will require us to take a comprehensive, consistent approach in each of the corresponding purviews of the Organization. Today, the Security Council enjoys the valuable support of the Peacebuilding Commission and is developing contacts and coordination with troop-contributing countries. It also relies in its work on the ad hoc mechanisms of the Economic and Social Council and on the activities of the funds and programmes. We must strengthen these mechanisms and promote greater coordination and interaction among these bodies in order to make peacekeeping operations more effective and efficient.

An excellent example of this comprehensive vision is the case of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), to which Peru is fully committed. The Mission has adapted to the changing situation on the ground, and established indicators and benchmarks in the areas of security, development and institutions. I take this opportunity to reiterate Peru's firm support for Haiti through its participation in MINUSTAH.

In order to bring about this positive change in peacekeeping mandates and for the United Nations to maintain its credibility in international public opinion, it is essential that the political and strategic visions of the main actors — the Security Council, the regions concerned and the parties involved in individual conflicts in particular countries — all converge. That vision should be complemented by rapid action by the forces available to the United Nations, without conditions and with a pre-established mandate.

In conclusion, I stress our interest in continued cooperation in developing the conceptual exercise of shaping a new alliance within the Organization in order to create a more flexible, workable and effective framework for peacekeeping operations.

The President: There are still a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. I intend, with the concurrence of the members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6178 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6178th meeting

Wednesday, 5 August 2009, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Sir John Sawers	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Lutterotti
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Somdah
	China	Mr. Hu Bo
	Costa Rica	Mr. Guillermet
	Croatia	Mr. Čačić
	France	Mr. Faivre
	Japan	Mr. Kimura
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Belkheir
	Mexico	Mr. Vargas
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Turkey	Mr. Gümrükçü
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United States of America	Mr. Ahmed
	Viet Nam	Mr. Ta Nhung Dinh

Agenda

United Nations peacekeeping operations

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The meeting resumed at 3.10 p.m.

The President: I would like to inform the Council that in addition to the list of countries that I mentioned this morning, I have received letters from the representatives of Nepal and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration without the right to vote in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: I would like to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than five minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously.

I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Morocco.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco): It is a real pleasure, Mr. President, to participate in this debate under your leadership and your guidance.

I have the honour to speak on behalf the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this public debate and for the opportunity to express and share our views at this important juncture for United Nations peacekeeping in terms of policy debates and future direction. We thank Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and Ms. Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, for their insightful and informative statements.

The Movement continues to stress that United Nations peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflicts, which should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner with the relevant political, social, economic and development instruments. NAM further maintains that the United Nations should give high consideration to the manner in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of peacekeeping operations, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace, security and development.

NAM believes that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as those that have evolved to govern peacekeeping as its basic principles, namely, the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence, and impartiality. The concept of the defence of the mandate cannot be put at the same level as these three guiding principles, since its application is restricted to the operational and tactical levels.

NAM also emphasizes that respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within their domestic jurisdiction should be maintained in this regard.

NAM continues to underscore that United Nations peacekeeping operations should be provided from the outset with political support, adequate human, financial and logistical resources and clearly defined and achievable mandates. The credibility of the authorized mandates rests on their clarity and their achievability.

The establishment of complex peacekeeping operations in recent years underlines the importance of a well-planned and carefully designed political process supported by the parties to a conflict. The consent of the parties and their adherence from the outset to the peace process is the best way to ensure that peacekeeping operates efficiently and leads to lasting peace, security and development.

With respect to securing the needed financial and logistical resources, NAM reiterates that all Member States contribute to the budget and that no special privileges should be established or recognized. Rather, we should all continue to sustain this unique tool at the disposal of United Nations. Better planning and budgeting, improved managerial and organizational capacity and energized triangular cooperation between troop-contributing countries (TCCs), the Secretariat and this Council are key to enhancing and strengthening the Organization's capacity to face the current challenges.

To accomplish this, it is necessary to synergize all initiatives and processes to ensure continuity of the reform process and to coordinate all efforts in a coherent and strategic direction for peacekeeping. To begin with, the General Assembly and its Special Committee in charge of reviewing all aspects of peacekeeping operations, the Security Council and the Secretariat should work in a manner to ensure synergy of efforts to meet our collective goals.

Troop-contributing countries of the NAM remain committed to these goals by providing 87 per cent of the personnel of United Nations peacekeeping. This unchallenged reality requires their imperative involvement in a meaningful manner in all aspects and stages of a peacekeeping operation. In this regard, we would like to express appreciation for the effort made by the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations to seek the views of TCCs on various aspects of current peacekeeping operations. NAM also appreciates the Council's call, through today's draft presidential statement, to deepen consultation through the mechanism of triangular cooperation. NAM will undoubtedly provide its views in due course on how to energize such cooperation. In this context, the concept paper prepared by the United Kingdom presidency lays down some promising options for a better dialogue and interaction.

Given its mandate, which has been reaffirmed over years by the General Assembly, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations remains

> "the only United Nations forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations ..." (A/63/19, para. 18).

Its military and policy expertise, built on extensive debate and discussion, could feed this Council's needs for such expertise. The Committee, also known as the Committee of Thirty Four (C-34), has always provided the framework to discuss reform processes such as the Brahimi report, the Peace Operations 2010 reform agenda and the major restructuring of DPKO and the creation of the Department of Field Support (DFS).

The assessments and recommendations provided in the DPKO-DFS non-paper entitled "A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for United Nations Peacekeeping" need to be considered by the C-34, which took note of the non-paper in its last session. I would like to emphasize once again that the Special Committee remains the appropriate forum to discuss the non-paper's ideas and suggestions, such as a robust approach to peacekeeping.

NAM will carefully examine the Secretariat's non-paper and provide its observations and comments in the same manner it did for the guidelines and principles referred to within the Secretariat as the "Capstone Document".

Twice this year — during the first and second debate, under the French and the Turkish presidencies respectively — NAM has provided its views and would like to renew today our readiness to deepen consultations between the TCCs and the Council in order to meet the rising challenges, having peace and security as the main objective and benchmark. We also reiterate our call on all developed countries to share the burden of peacekeeping. Engaging their troops and dealing with difficulties stemming from deployments in hostile environments and difficult political contexts would demonstrate that there exists a genuine partnership among Member States and would bring much-needed responses to the future direction of United Nations peacekeeping.

Thanking you, Mr. President, for your indulgence, I would like to wish you all the best in your new endeavours.

The President: I thank the representative of Morocco for his kind words. I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Ms. Hulan (Canada): Mr. President, thank you for organizing today's debate. In the interests of time, Sir, and as you requested at the outset of this meeting, I will deliver a summary version of Canada's statement and would note that the full text of these remarks is being circulated in hard copy.

Canada welcomes the renewed attention which the Council has given to the future of United Nations peacekeeping in recent months, in particular the initiative undertaken by your own delegation, Sir, and that of France, as well as the efforts of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, under the able guidance of Japan.

Canada also thanks Under-Secretaries-General Alain Le Roy and Susana Malcorra for their briefings

earlier and for the collective efforts of their two departments in producing the non-paper before us today. The vision of renewed partnership that they have given us is a vital one, and we view this non-paper as a serious and forward-looking contribution to the continuing dialogue on the future of peacekeeping.

The presidential statement to be adopted following this meeting is a good preliminary response. We particularly welcome advances that have been made in the important area of benchmarking and with respect to designing credible and achievable mandates, which are the cornerstone of effective United Nations operations. The commitment expressed in the presidential statement to engage in deeper and more meaningful consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries is also heartening, and Canada looks forward to future Council decisions on how this commitment will be further implemented.

United Nations peacekeeping has had many successes over the years. Peacekeeping activities have prevented relapse into violent conflict, created conditions for durable peace and saved lives. However, if peacekeeping is to remain a viable and effective tool for managing conflict, its practice must adapt to the needs of the increasingly complex environments in which missions are deployed. Delivering on this aspiration will require continued effort and progress in both peacekeeping policy and practice.

It is clear that peace operations are most effective when supported by a solid political consensus. However, it is equally clear that the membership as a whole is still grappling with the implications of many of the new and emerging challenges facing peace operations.

Achieving the renewed global partnership called for in the non-paper will require inclusive policy consultations with Member States and partner organizations. Among the issues that we believe would profit from future discussions are the scope of mandates and the modalities by which they are conducted, the political dimensions of peace operations, and resourcing. We believe that a shared understanding of these issues within the membership as a whole lies at the very heart of any effort to renew broad-based support for United Nations action, and we look forward to engaging in an inclusive discussion with other Member States on all of these issues in the months ahead.

The fact that there remain complex issues that legitimately require further deliberation should not deter us from making progress in the near term where progress is possible. In our view, there are a number of practical steps that can be taken in the immediate term to improve the manner in which peace operations are mandated, supported and conducted. Let me highlight just three.

First is enhanced consultation with troop-contributing countries (TCCs). The manner in which TCCs are consulted by this body on mission mandates is highlighted repeatedly through A New Partnership Agenda. Canada believes that this dialogue is fundamental in crafting the partnership that that document envisages. We therefore urge the Secretariat and the Security Council to take practical steps to enhance those consultations. We welcome the proposals in that regard. Specifically, we urge the Council to ensure that those consultations take place during the mandate-generation phase, not after the fact. In our view, that need not be a cumbersome process, nor does it imply in any way an erosion of the Council's fundamental authority for crafting and approving mandates. However, prior consultation and a genuine responsiveness by this body and the Secretariat to the views of those tasked with carrying out the mandates would be, in our view, of benefit to all parties.

Second is enhancing the political consensus underpinning individual peace operations. As other speakers have noted in this debate, improving and sustaining the political support of regional actors, donors and troop contributors for individual operations is critically important. We have learned in recent years that the shared objectives and concerted collaboration of mission-specific coalitions, such as that which exists for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, can provide invaluable political, diplomatic and practical support for United Nations missions. While we acknowledge that this model may not be appropriate for every mission, we believe that the practice can and should be deepened with the active support of this Council.

Finally, allow me to say a word on the non-military dimensions of peacekeeping operations. It is increasingly recognized within the membership that a basic condition for the exit of a peacekeeping presence is the consolidation of legitimate national security and justice institutions. Indeed, policing, security system reform and rule of law are now

recognized as core functions of modern peacekeeping. Our work and investment need to reflect that reality. In the next phase of the current review, Canada would welcome further exploration of that set of challenges and, specifically, the elaboration of a strategic direction for the future of United Nations policing efforts that identifies areas of need, including the specialized skills required for tackling organized crime and investigating sexually-based violence; assesses the likely scale of the policing demand and how to meet it, including a review of formed police units; and, lastly, explores alternative models of deployment.

In conclusion, my delegation would like once again to thank the Secretariat and the delegations of the United Kingdom, France and Japan for their considerable efforts to advance this agenda. I can assure them of Canada's fullest support through the next phase of this important initiative, including through the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and in the Fifth Committee.

The President: I thank the representative of Canada for the contribution that her delegation has made to this debate over the past months and years.

I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Natalegawa (Indonesia): Let me join previous speakers in thanking you, Mr. President, for convening this important debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations. We would also like to thank Under-Secretaries-General Alain Le Roy and Susana Malcorra for their important remarks. My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We welcome the Council's recognition that United Nations peacekeeping is a unique global partnership that brings together the commitments and contributions of the entire United Nations system. In this shared effort, all stakeholders need to be on the same page, working in concert and with a sense of common purpose to effectively address the peacekeeping challenges.

Indeed, there has not been a shortage of ideas and initiatives. We have seen many processes initiated by the Council, individual Member States and the Secretariat to improve the global partnership. Nevertheless, it is essential that, at the end of those processes and in order to ensure the ownership of all stakeholders, there should be one agreed framework encapsulating those many initiatives on how to make progress.

We note that the Council, for its part, has recently laid down benchmarks in a number of its resolutions relating to specific peacekeeping operations. The focus on timelines and strategic workplans, with tracking of progress, is, indeed, a positive development. We also recognize the efforts of the Council to develop practices to improve collective oversight. We appreciate the efforts of the Council to enhance dialogue with stakeholders for better planning and oversight of peacekeeping operations.

In that context, we thank Under-Secretaries-General Alain Le Roy and Susana Malcorra for their non-paper, entitled "A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for United Nations Peacekeeping". The non-paper is, indeed, an important contribution to the wider deliberation processes on how to better address the challenges of peacekeeping. The non-paper could also be used as a basis for further concrete efforts. It is our hope that its contents will be duly discussed by Member States and feed into the comprehensive review undertaken by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34).

Indonesia believes that, in order to arrive at a clear, credible and achievable mandate, there should be meaningful and multistage consultations by the Council with stakeholders at an early stage.

On the operational aspect, benchmarks set up by the Council should be the basis for deciding whether a mission has achieved its objectives. In addition, greater effort should be made to fill the gaps between the Council's mandates vis-à-vis the concept of operations and the rules of engagement, which serve as the manual for peacekeepers in the field. There is often an absence or lack of clear parameters on the number and types of personnel and equipment to cover the vast and complex mandate of a mission to protect civilians.

Clarity of parameters is also needed to ascertain the success of a peacekeeping mission, thus ensuring a seamless transition from the peacekeeping to the post-conflict peacebuilding phase. The importance of coherence and integration among peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development must be emphasized.

We share the view contained in the New Horizon non-paper on the need to define, with Member States, the logistical, training and equipment requirements for missions. We look forward to the development of the draft strategic guidance note from the Secretariat on an approach to robust peacekeeping before the end of 2009.

We encourage further systematic collaboration among peacekeeping stakeholders, which could be mapped out by the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and the C-34. While we note the assurances of the Council that it will strive for more meaningful engagement and better information-sharing with troop-contributing countries (TCCs), one key challenge remains — how to ensure that inputs from TCCs or potential TCCs are fully utilized in the Council's decision-making process.

I have some concluding thoughts. Indonesia welcomes the continued support of the Council for partnership in peacekeeping with relevant regional and subregional organizations. It is our firm belief that such organizations have much to contribute, not least to the full range of responses when addressing a situation that may endanger international peace and security. A full range of responses suggests that a peacekeeping mission by itself is not a panacea for conflict resolution. It has to be, and usually is, an integral part of the broader political solution.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Guatemala.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your initiative to organize this open debate and to thank you for the concept note that you circulated among all delegations. The topic is extremely relevant not only for the Security Council, but for the entire United Nations system. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, but would like to add some specific remarks.

As a country that benefited directly from a United Nation mission, Guatemala recognizes the fundamental importance of the Organization's peacekeeping operations. They are a basic activity of the United Nations and an indispensable tool for the work of this Organization, in which we participate as a troop-contributing country.

At the same time, United Nations peacekeeping operations are faced with increasing demand, expanding scale, increasingly diverse mandates and growing complexity. This is taking place in a context of limited financial and technical resources, placing great pressure on our capacity to respond. Thus, the issue of how to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations has been on our agenda for many years, and today more than ever before, answers are needed.

For our part, I should like to make the following observations. First, and as indicated in the concept reference note, we agree that it is important that peacekeeping operations have clear, feasible and verifiable mandates tailored to the particular situation of each case. We believe that, in the formulation and/or extension of mandates, every available tool should be taken into account on the basis of a needs assessment for each case. Resolution 1353 (2001) provided us with a comprehensive vision of what should be done in that regard.

Secondly, we should ensure that missions receive sufficient financial resources to fulfil the mandates entrusted to them. In that connection, my delegation believes that the expression "major financial contributors" should not be used in relation to peacekeeping operations, as it runs counter to the letter and the spirit of the Charter. All Member States contribute to the budget in accordance with their capacity to pay.

Thirdly, consultations with countries that are not Council members and that contribute troops to peacekeeping operations should be enhanced. Thus, it is necessary to improve the relationship between those who formulate mandates and plan and manage peacekeeping operations and those who carry out such mandates. Troop-contributing countries should participate fully from the outset in all aspects and stages of peacekeeping operations, helping the Security Council to take appropriate, effective and timely decisions.

In that regard, we highlight the importance of strengthening and intensifying the interaction between the Working Group on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and the troop-contributing countries. We commend the important work being done by Japan as Chair of the Working Group, and we look forward with interest to the interim report on the work of the Group

in 2009, which, we understand, will be distributed shortly.

Fourthly, the concept note mentions joint meetings between political experts and military experts to discuss aspects of peacekeeping operations. My delegation believes that such joint meetings, held within the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), are vital. Thus, it would also be desirable to expand the coordination between the Security Council and other General Assembly forums, in particular the C-34, which, as members are aware, was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2006 (XIX), precisely to consider in depth all aspects related to peacekeeping operations.

Fifthly, we have closely followed the process of the non-paper originally entitled "Project New Horizon" and recently issued as "A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for United Nations Peacekeeping". We hope that the document will be considered by the C-34 with a view to producing a detailed assessment of the current and future challenges to peacekeeping operations indicated in the document by both Departments.

In conclusion, we believe that we have much better information today about how to address the challenge facing us than we had a number of years ago. We have significant assets at our disposal as a result of lessons learned in many complex operations over the past 15 years, in addition to the guidelines set out in the now-classic 2000 Brahimi report (S/2000/809), the "Peace Operations 2010" proposal, the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the creation of the Department of Field Support. In addition to all that, we now have the evaluations and recommendations contained in the New Horizon document. Over the past few years, interesting functional associations have also been established between the United Nations and regional forums, in particular the African Union.

In short, we must abandon incomplete reforms, tensions within management and command systems and the disproportionality between mandates and resources, as well as problems of scale, since those aspects only reduce the efficiency of United Nations peacekeeping operations. My delegation firmly believes that in the future, through strengthened cooperation and political will, we can achieve effective United Nations peacekeeping operations in keeping with the relevant aspirations and objectives set out in the Charter.

The President: I now call on the representative of Bangladesh.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): First, let me congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I also wish to thank you for convening this important debate. My thanks also go to Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra and to Force Commander General Agwai for their comprehensive and informative briefings this morning.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. In addition, I wish to briefly highlight certain points that we believe to be important.

United Nations peacekeeping operations have experienced many difficult situations in terms of their legitimacy and modus operandi. It is necessary to adjust their modes of operation while retaining the basic and guiding principles agreed upon by Member States. Many initiatives have been accomplished, some have not, and some are ongoing. I would like to mention the necessity of crafting clear, credible and achievable mandates.

The Security Council, in its resolution 1327 (2000) on the Brahimi report (S/2000/809), resolved to give peacekeeping operations such mandates. Given the increased complexity of the mandated tasks of the missions, there is a need for well-defined and unambiguous mandates.

The Security Council, in its resolution 1327 (2000), noted the need to address the root causes of violent conflict through the promotion of sustainable development and democratic society. I wish to stress that the Security Council should be able to address those causes of conflicts effectively and that further action should be taken to bridge the institutional divide between peacekeeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction.

I would also stress the need for further harmonization and consolidation of United Nations-led initiatives, whereby lessons learned from Council-mandated integrated peacekeeping missions could be taken into account. We also emphasize the need for

greater synergy between peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding activities.

Regarding consultation with troop-contributing countries (TCCs), my delegation has spoken of this on a number of occasions. I would like to mention here that all necessary steps on such matters should be taken in compliance with resolutions 1327 (2000) and 1353 (2000).

It is imperative and logical to benefit from the experience and expertise of the troop-contributing countries while planning, implementing, extending or adjusting peacekeeping mandates. The TCCs can undoubtedly contribute to the planning process of the Security Council in arriving at appropriate decisions on United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Given the scale and complexity of peacekeeping, there is a lack of adequate human, financial and logistical resources. Although peacekeeping is one component among a range of overlapping and mutually reinforcing activities that include peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, it is undeniably the critical building block and a crucial transitional phase that paves the way to lasting peace. It is therefore necessary to make all resources available to ensure the maintenance of peace and security in a conflict area.

We also believe in a wider partnership in peacekeeping. We emphasize that the contributor base should be expanded to ensure collective burden-sharing. Bangladesh welcomes the complementary role played by regional organizations in United Nations-mandated peacekeeping operations. Their role, however, must not be seen as a substitute for that of the United Nations. United Nations peacekeeping forces must maintain a true international character in order to uphold their universality, impartiality and neutrality.

Turning to the New Horizon non-paper, we take note of the Secretariat's efforts to put these assessments and recommendations together.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Serbia.

Mr. Starčević (Serbia): Peacekeeping operations are one of the most important aspects of the capacity of the United Nations to safeguard international peace and security, and I wish to join those who have spoken before me in congratulating you, Mr. President, on convening this meeting of the Security Council on this important issue.

Serbia attaches great importance to the United Nations role in promoting and maintaining international peace and security, and is committed to participating in the system of collective security. In this way, it makes its contribution to projecting and building a favourable security environment at the global and regional levels, and continues the tradition of Yugoslavia's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations, dating as far back as 1956.

Following more than a decade-long absence, Serbia, by sending military observers to the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor in June 2002, once again joined the ranks of States that take active part in the establishment and maintenance of peace and stability in the world. In addition to military observers, Serbia's contribution to peacekeeping missions has also included the dispatch of medical and police teams. Today, Serbia takes part in five peacekeeping operations.

The participation of Serbian personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations is becoming an ever-more important element of the foreign policy of my country and a new expression of its international cooperation and its inclusion into international integration processes. The defence and national security strategies of the Republic of Serbia, adopted in April 2009, provide for the country's active participation in multinational operations mandated by the United Nations. The main tasks and objectives of these strategies in the security sector are aimed at building and maintaining international peace and security.

Peacekeeping mandates are much more diversified today than they have been in the past and include, in addition to conflict prevention and maintenance of peace components, post-conflict reconstruction and long-term social development tasks. We therefore need a comprehensive approach that establishes a solid basis and criteria for making peacekeeping operations more efficient and effective. We also need to establish more firmly a principle of analysis and review of each individual peacekeeping operation, and to strengthen the cooperation and coordination of the Security Council and other United Nations bodies in areas of joint responsibility.

Furthermore, it is necessary to prepare an integrated strategy for planning and implementing peacekeeping missions. Despite the positive results of

those missions and their focus on the protection of civilians, the number of civilian victims is, unfortunately, increasing.

In order to ensure the success of a peacekeeping operation, we need first and foremost to define its mandate in clear terms, always taking into account the specific situation in which the operation is going to take place, as well as the involvement of external factors. This is particularly true for the deployment of rapid reaction forces, where we need to define very clearly the role of the troop-contributing countries as well.

Recently, the United Nations has been increasingly involved in coordinating activities among different peacekeeping missions. In addition, regional organizations tend to be assigned an ever-greater role in peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world. However, their participation in maintaining regional peace and security cannot be a substitute for the key role of the United Nations in the implementation of a peacekeeping operation. Regional organizations' mandates must be strictly in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter and fully under the aegis of the Security Council.

The success of a peacekeeping operation depends, in great measure, on the cooperation of the United Nations with troop-contributing States. However, we must not disregard United Nations cooperation with troop-receiving countries. This cooperation should not be limited to the specific questions of the conduct of the operation; rather, it should encompass a whole range of other questions of wider importance, such as terrorism, trafficking in drugs and human trafficking, concerning which close coordination can be very useful.

Such cooperation should be institutionalized through status of mission and status of forces agreements. Moreover, peacekeeping missions should not deal with the causes of conflict and must be carried out in strict respect for the principle of territorial integrity and political independence.

Under resolution 1244 (1999), the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has been engaged as the civilian part of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, in Kosovo and Metohija, with the task of maintaining stability and security in that province.

In June last year, an initiative was launched to reconfigure UNMIK, involving an enhanced operational role of the European Union in the rule of law area. The Republic of Serbia took active part in the UNMIK reconfiguration debate. Following an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the United Nations, and with the approval of the Security Council, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) assumed full operational responsibility in the rule of law area on 9 December 2008.

According to that agreement, EULEX will fully respect resolution 1244 (1999) and operate under the overall authority and within the status-neutral framework of the United Nations. It will submit reports to the United Nations on a regular basis. The deployment of EULEX throughout Kosovo will be carried out in close consultation with the relevant stakeholders, taking into account the specific circumstances and concerns of all communities, and will coordinate with UNMIK. For Serbia, the implementation of the six-point plan of the Secretary-General remains of paramount importance.

As in the past, the Republic of Serbia is ready to make its maximum contribution to the functioning of UNMIK and EULEX, as well as to any other peacekeeping operation under United Nations auspices. Serbia continues to insist that UNMIK must continue to play the central role in maintaining peace and stability in Kosovo and Metohija, as well as the role of coordinator in the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999). We also firmly believe that the proper funding of the Mission should be maintained.

In conclusion, let me say that the recent contributions of the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support towards defining the present and future challenges of United Nations peacekeeping operations and finding ways of dealing with them are very valuable. They give us an excellent base for further discussions that should be carried out in the spirit of cooperation and awareness of the importance of the issues involved.

The President: I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of India.

Mr. Puri (India): Mr. President, let me begin by thanking you for organizing this debate. India attaches the highest importance to the issue of peacekeeping. This is the second time in six weeks that I have spoken

in this Chamber on this topic, which is indicative of the importance that my delegation attaches to engaging in the ongoing deliberations on this subject in the Council and in other forums. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to align itself broadly with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

A number of initiatives, including that of the delegations of the United Kingdom and France, are under way with the aim of taking stock of the current state of peacekeeping. These efforts are being supplemented or complemented by those of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and the Secretariat's New Horizon project.

A number of common themes run through these parallel efforts. The draft presidential statement circulated among Member States, which we have studied carefully, attempts to come to grips with some of these issues. Without going into the merits of the question of whether a presidential statement is the appropriate format for addressing these issues, we would like to express our appreciation for the work that has gone into the document. We find some of the ideas and recommendations useful and timely.

As a nation that has provided and continues to provide the United Nations with thousands of soldiers and policemen, in addition to a large proportion of operating air assets, we feel that the nature of the Security Council's mandates and the manner in which they are generated represent an area of major and continuing concern. Mandates are too broad and have very little correlation with the ability of the Organization to deliver. We reiterate the importance of the recommendation contained in the Brahimi report (S/2000/809) that mandates be clear and achievable. We also reiterate that this will not be possible without substantively involving countries that contribute manpower and resources to peacekeeping operations.

India is not unfamiliar with the concept of robust peacekeeping. In December 1962, an Indian officer, General Dewan Prem Chand, led an acclaimed United Nations military operation, consisting largely of Indian troops, deployed in the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC), which ended the Katangese secession and restored authority to the Congo Government. ONUC, in which India lost 39 peacekeepers, was the first robust United Nations peacekeeping operation.

The Operation was conducted in response to a clear mandate arrived at after consultations. Today, we receive feedback from our personnel on the ground informing us that questions of substantive interpretation of the mandates, with repercussions beyond the immediate, are often left to the judgement of mission personnel on the ground. This is a difficult situation, particularly for military officers, who operate best when there are unambiguous instructions and objectives. Unrealistic mandates have led to situations in which mission personnel are forced to ask national contingents to undertake tasks and utilize contingent-owned equipment in a manner inconsistent with the legal framework under which they are deployed.

We note with appreciation the thrust of the statement on the question of triangular consultations. We would here once again like to draw attention to our most recent experience in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where changes in the rules of engagement and concept of operations were communicated to the troop-contributing countries after they had been authorized. I reiterate that being informed is not the same as being consulted.

We also note the Council's intention to increase interaction with the Secretariat during the drafting of a mandate on the rule of law and peacebuilding dimensions of an operation. We believe that the future effectiveness of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security in the context of peacekeeping lies in its ability to harness national governance capacities in affected countries. These national capacities, as the post-colonial experience of many societies reveals, usually exist in ample measure. The challenge lies in applying to these situations the capacities and knowledge of countries that have undergone successful post-colonial nation-building exercises. The Council therefore needs to expand the ambit of its consultations to include these countries.

The Secretariat has a predilection for codification. Doctrines and benchmarks are constantly being written and updated. While we have no argument that there is a need to set standards, we need to remind ourselves that standards should be set in a manner that is realistic and relevant to the operating environment in which United Nations peacekeepers deploy. Doctrines and standards must not become like mandates — statements rather than a blueprint for action.

Field support needs far greater attention. It is our view, based on our experience of supporting the large contingents that we currently have under deployment, that the Department of Field Support (DFS) needs far greater internal coordination and client orientation. It has also been our view that the Department needs to function as a military support operation with a lean command structure. We feel that there is a need for far greater engagement of Member States on the question of the functioning of the DFS.

In conclusion, I would salute the peacekeepers from India and other nations who have laid down their lives while serving in United Nations missions. I would also like to reiterate India's commitment to work with the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, including through the mechanism of peacekeeping.

The President: I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Uruguay.

Mr. Cancela (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, I wish first to thank you for convening this meeting. I would also like to thank Under-Secretaries-General Susana Malcorra and Alain Le Roy for their presence and their briefings, and to General Agwai, Force Commander of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

Secondly, I should like to express my delegation's appreciation of the indisputable efforts of the Security Council throughout this year to achieve more fluid and substantive interaction with troop-contributing countries.

Several initiatives and actions have been undertaken on this issue in the United Nations in recent months. Uruguay appreciates them all and is convinced that, although there is still much to be done in order to agree consensual responses to the principal challenges facing peacekeeping operations, these exercises are of intrinsic value and have already allowed certain basic understandings to emerge.

In our view, the central understanding that has taken shape pertains to strengthening the concept of the partnership involved in United Nations peacekeeping. The future of peacekeeping operations is inconceivable without a broader and deeper dialogue among the major actors of the system — Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries, the host State, the Security Council and the Secretariat.

The question is how we can extend and deepen that partnership. From the perspective of a troop-contributing country like Uruguay, it is essential to deepen and, in some cases, effectively utilize existing mechanisms. With respect to the Security Council, that would not only entail convening meetings pursuant to resolutions 1327 (2000) and 1353 (2001), but also involve the consultation mechanism referred to the note of the President of the Security Council contained in document S/2002/56.

As recent meetings of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations convened by the Japanese delegation have clearly shown, substantive meetings between troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Working Group on specific missions can be very productive. It is important that such meetings be convened in a timely manner before mandates are approved or renewed, as well as at key junctures during a mission. We therefore encourage the effective implementation of that mechanism.

It is also important that we continue to convene meetings such as today's on a regular basis in order to address this issue in a general manner and specific matters of sensitivity to all Member States. As we have stated since the beginning of the year, we must not underestimate the importance of ensuring a broad basis of support for Council-approved mandates, especially if we take into account the nature of the new tasks being integrated into those mandates. These tasks are more complex and require more robust rules of engagement, for example in the protection of civilians.

While we recognize that the Security Council has promoted the development of such tasks, seeking as broad a consensus as possible among all Member States would not only ensure the greater legitimacy of and weaker resistance to such action, but would also generate stronger commitment among all those involved in its implementation. Thus, the role of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations must be re-evaluated, and to that end we must all strive to build confidence among those involved.

Moreover, the relationship with the Secretariat is fundamental in this respect. It is clear that there is plenty of room for the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat to improve and deepen their dialogue, and both sides must work to that end. In addition to seeking to deepen and ensure that mechanisms for the exchange of information and consultation become more

substantive, there is a clear need to improve the level of representation for the troop-contributing countries at Headquarters and in the field, particularly at the senior level. We stress this point not solely to emphasize the issue of geographical distribution of office, but also because we fully believe that communications in the field and between the field and Headquarters regarding the implementation of mandates would be significantly improved by enhanced feedback between national systems and the Organization.

This discussion of the New Horizon project and the new partnership agenda is an excellent opportunity to build broad consensus on such practical aspects as the definition of critical strategies to address current and future peacekeeping operations. The documents submitted by the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support provide an excellent basis for the debate on these issues in the months to come, to which we hope to make a constructive contribution.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Mr. Goledzinowski (Australia): I thank you, Sir, for convening today's debate. I congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency, and would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Uganda on its presidency last month.

At the outset, I should also like to acknowledge the efforts of the United Kingdom, including its work this year with France on peacekeeping reform. I should also like to thank Mr. Le Roy and Ms. Malcorra for their statements today, for their patient presence here with us during this debate, and for their ongoing efforts to keep Member States informed on the progress of initiatives to date. Finally, I should like to congratulate the United States on its very important announcement today that it will be paying its outstanding peacekeeping dues.

We welcome the initiative represented in the New Horizon non-paper. Given the constraints on time, we will highlight just a few key points that we would like to make in that regard.

Political support through the life cycle of a United Nations peacekeeping mission is critical to its overall success. There needs to be more sustained consideration by the Council of missions during all stages of their development, not only when a mission is due to appear on the Security Council's agenda. In this regard, and was as acknowledged earlier today in the statements of Japan, New Zealand and Canada, we agree that there is advantage in the contributions of informal mission-specific coalitions of engaged stakeholders. Such informal support groups can provide valuable assistance in mobilizing political support and resources. We think that this is a welcome step and provides a constructive opportunity to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders, including troop- and police-contributing countries, on a particular mission.

Our own membership in the core group on Timor-Leste has enabled us to observe the benefits that wider cooperation on a particular mission can provide, particularly one that is integrated and involves several non-United Nations components. The core group has been pivotal in ensuring that Member States supporting the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste have been able to provide input into the development of the Mission mandate, thereby ensuring their sustained political support during the different evolutions of the mission cycle. The leadership by South Africa and Japan as co-Chairs of the core group has very much assisted the group to function well.

When we create or renew peacekeeping missions, the Security Council needs to ensure that those missions' mandates are both credible and achievable. This requires a clear understanding within the Council regarding the implications of mandated tasks with regard to resources and possible outcomes. One particular area where this requires significant improvement is mandating tasks on the protection of civilians, as Under-Secretary-General Le Roy highlighted earlier today.

The Council has been effective in including the protection of civilians in the mandates of peacekeeping operations. However, it is critical that we now ensure these mandates are effectively applied in the field. Some missions have started to develop the means to do this, such as through the use of joint protection teams in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or the initiative by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur on the protection of civilians. We welcome these developments, but stress that further work must be done to capture the lessons that are being learned in these missions. We need to ensure that these lessons are shared and included in the development of training

and guidelines to assist all peacekeepers to implement these mandates in the field.

The successful achievement of peacekeeping mission mandates also requires the timely provision of essential resources. Any lack of responsiveness can put those mandates at risk. We therefore welcome the work of the Department of Field Support in developing a support strategy that has the potential to modernize and globalize United Nations peacekeeping support structures, thereby improving the protection of Member States' personnel and resources.

We also recognize the importance of the related issue of planning. Australia therefore welcomes the progress achieved thus far on strengthening integrated mission planning and hopes to see further progress occur. We also support the development by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of guidelines on civil-military coordination.

Australia believes that it is only through concerted effort and input from all parties who have an interest in United Nations peacekeeping that we will truly be able to address the challenges that continue to face it. Australia looks forward to working with the Secretariat, the Security Council and other Member States on further discussing and making progress on some of the recommendations contained in the New Horizon non-paper.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge once again the service of those men and women deployed to peace operations around the world.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Tunisia.

Mr. Jomaa (Tunisia) (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, I would like to express to you, Mr. President, the warm congratulations of my delegation on your presidency of the Council for this month. I am convinced that, thanks to your broad experience, the work and deliberations of the Council will be successful. I would also like to pay tribute to you for choosing peacekeeping operations as the main item on the agenda under your presidency. I would also like to thank Mr. Le Roy, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and Ms. Malcorra, the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, for their participation in this debate and for their valuable briefings on developments in the subject that we are discussing.

I would like to support the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

There is no doubt that this debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations is very timely and extremely important, due to the growing challenges facing such operations. We are invited to consider the various initiatives undertaken recently to contribute to the development of peacekeeping operations, in particular the study published by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, along with the French-British initiative.

Here, I would like to highlight the need to ensure that all Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries, participate actively in such debates throughout the consideration of all items related to this pivotal issue, in the light of the increased need for peacekeeping operations and the need to ensure peace and security in the world. My delegation believes that the General Assembly and the relevant bodies and committees, particularly the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, remain the appropriate framework in which to examine this issue, with the participation of all Member States and the Secretariat and with the valuable contribution of the Security Council and its Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations.

Tunisia has participated for over 40 years in peacekeeping operations and continues to participate in and contribute to these operations. We are convinced of the noble goals of our Organization, and thus the maintenance of peace, stability and security in the world is an essential issue for us. Here, I would like to reiterate our determination to support and participate in peacekeeping operations, which are among the greatest successes of our Organization in spite of the difficulties faced, as these operations provide hope to people who are living in a climate of conflict, crisis or war.

While we strive to coordinate our activities and experience with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, I would like to highlight the following points.

With respect to the structure and organizational framework of peacekeeping operations, transparency must be ensured with regard to all resolutions related to the creation and enhancement of a peacekeeping operation or to the renewal of a mandate. This must be accomplished through ongoing coordination with

stakeholders, particularly troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council. This is one of the main and pivotal points contained in the presidential statement that has been proposed by the United Kingdom for adoption at the conclusion of this meeting.

Next, we must pool our efforts to develop the capacity of peacekeeping operations and ensure their coherence, and we must examine the contents and objectives of these operations in the light of the New Horizon study. Given the importance and sensitivity of this subject, there should an ongoing in-depth dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat before the study can be adopted.

With respect to the management on the ground of peacekeeping operations and their governing principles, we would like to highlight the importance of respecting the basic principles governing peacekeeping operations, that is, the consent of stakeholders, non-resort to force except in self-defence and the principle of neutrality, which is very essential. In addition, the primary responsibility of these missions is to endeavour to ensure the protection and safety of civilians. We should also take care to guarantee that forces are protected when they are deployed or redeployed by providing them with the equipment they need to carry out their mission and by creating favourable conditions for doing so in order to ensure success. Prior consultations should take place with the troop-contributing countries on logistics issues related to the mission.

Those are the observations that my delegation wanted to share with the Council. I think that these are points that are of importance to all. I think too that this debate will enable us to compile the points of view and the visions of Members in order to ensure greater effectiveness and benefit in peacekeeping operations, given the increased demand for these operations, due to the unfortunate increase in the number of hot spots of tension and crises in the world.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Amil (Pakistan): I would first like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the Council's presidency and to wish you success in your work.

We welcome the opportunity to participate in this debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations, the third in a series of important discussions that the Council has held since January, in addition to the meetings of the Council's Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, to which the Pakistan delegation has also contributed. It is right that the Council devotes time and attention to this dialogue and interaction aimed at making peacekeeping work better. After all, peacekeeping is today the flagship activity of the United Nations and one of the key instruments in the hands of the Council to carry out its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The challenges of effective planning and management of peacekeeping operations are quite well known to the policymakers and practitioners. There also seems to be a fairly good idea of the kind of responses and actions, backed with adequate mechanisms, capacity and resources, that are required to address those challenges. What is generally lacking is the implementation part. And it is here that this process, and the draft presidential statement that is before the Council, could add value.

Let me say that implementation will become easier if the relevant actors and stakeholders are operating, not in a piecemeal or fragmented manner, but with unity of purpose and a common strategic vision of peacekeeping. To ensure continued success, it is essential to preserve the identity of United Nations peacekeeping. What gives strength to the strategic vision is the strict observance of the Charter and the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping, as also stressed by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, whose statement my delegation fully supports.

Implementation will also be enhanced if the mandates for peacekeeping operations are clear, credible and achievable, and if they are matched by appropriate resources. We are glad that the Council is committed to doing just that. Realities on the ground, not political expediencies, should guide the Council's decisions. Maintenance of international peace and security should be the objective and the main benchmark. When lives are at risk, that objective, not cost considerations, should drive peacekeeping. Overstretch of resources also results in implementation lag and overstretch of a mission's duration, which ultimately increases costs.

Effective implementation also requires more meaningful and tangible partnership with the troop-contributing countries (TCCs), and we hope to see that happen as a result of this exercise. This partnership means not only enhanced dialogue and consultation but also adequate representation of the major TCCs at the leadership level in the field and, particularly, at Headquarters. That is the best way of ensuring coherence between those who design mandates and those who implement them. We would have liked to see this aspect properly reflected in the presidential statement.

Collective burden-sharing requires greater participation by Member States in United Nations peacekeeping operations. I believe we should seriously pursue the two-way process of broadening the contributors' base with more developed countries and broadening the decision makers' base with more developing countries. Everyone should be fully in the loop. Without that, predictable capacities and credible actions cannot be ensured. Some cannot just monopolize the design, management, review and monitoring role, while the others are consigned to the implementation role. If we share the strategic vision of United Nations peacekeeping, we should also be willing to share the burden for its implementation. And we should be able to better explain why some of us, who have the capacity, are not willing to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations but are there to advise how the job should be done.

It is understandable that the Council reviews certain aspects of peacekeeping and opens up to other stakeholders with regard to its decision-making processes. That also makes sense in the context of improvement of the Council's working methods. However, such reviews cannot be Council-centric. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations has the mandate for the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations and is the right forum with the right expertise for that purpose. It must be fully utilized. More attention needs to be given to core issues, including the surge in demand and rapid deployment.

The Council, for its part, should do what it can do best, that is, to evolve larger political consensus in support of peacekeeping, to promote political processes and to pursue comprehensive approaches for conflict prevention and resolution. It should accord priority to resolving inter-State conflicts alongside intra-State situations — which, by the way, consume most of the peacekeeping resources at present. And for the latter, there should be a fuller interface of peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities through early engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission when the peacekeepers are on ground.

Lastly, for better implementation, we require continuity and coherence in the various reform proposals and other processes currently under way. As the leading troop contributor, Pakistan will carefully consider the recommendations of this debate and the Secretariat's non-paper entitled "A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for United Nations Peacekeeping", on which a fuller discussion may be desirable in the context of the wider reform process.

Let me conclude by reaffirming Pakistan's continued support and strong commitment to the success of our collective peacekeeping efforts in the interest of world peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): We congratulate the United Kingdom on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of August and commend Uganda for having successfully steered the work of the Council during month of July. We welcome the opportunity to participate and share our views in the Council's debate on United Nations peacekeeping. South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. We also thank the Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra and General Agwai for their briefings to the Council.

This debate highlights once again the urgency of meaningfully and collectively addressing the complexities of peacekeeping today. Peacekeeping is one of the major means at the disposal of the United Nations to fulfil its mandate of maintaining international peace and security. The Charter of the United Nations clearly mandates the maintenance of international peace and security as the primary responsibility of the Organization, in particular of the Security Council.

Despite some shortcomings and challenges, United Nations peacekeeping operations have played an important role in helping countries emerge from conflict, consolidate peace, maintain stability and

engage in national reconstruction, especially on our continent of Africa. We hope this debate will contribute to enhancing and improving the effectiveness, efficiency and continued relevance of United Nations peacekeeping.

We welcome the efforts of the Secretariat to review peacekeeping operations as outlined in its non-paper "A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for United Nations Peacekeeping". We hope that that non-paper, alongside other existing literature such as the Brahimi report (S/2000/809) and the 2010 reform agenda, will provide a basis for engaging in a meaningful discussion on the multifaceted challenges facing peacekeeping. In that regard, we would like to limit our focus to five key issues that we believe could chart a way forward on United Nations peacekeeping if given meaningful consideration.

A comprehensive, coordinated and inclusive approach to improving the effectiveness of peacekeeping during the planning, in-theatre and exit stages of such operations should be enhanced. In order to achieve that, all key stakeholders, including the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat, must be thoroughly consulted and engaged. While the current mechanism for consultation, such as the Council's meetings with troop-contributing countries, have provided a forum for engagement, frequent and substantive interaction could prove useful.

In that regard, South Africa would like to emphasize the critical contribution made by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the General Assembly's Fifth Committee and other stakeholders in enhancing United Nations peacekeeping efforts. We also recognize the important work conducted by the Peacebuilding Commission in post-conflict societies.

South Africa is of the view that burden-sharing is key to dealing with the complex challenges of peacekeeping. While many of us acknowledge the importance of our collective responsibility towards effective peacekeeping, that should be guided by political will and matched by actual actions on the ground. For that reason, we encourage the general membership of the United Nations to continue to generously contribute to all peacekeeping operations, with both personnel and equipment.

South Africa supports ongoing United Nations efforts to strengthen its partnership and dialogue with relevant regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU) and the European Union, in the area of peacekeeping. We believe that those partnerships should be strengthened as they provide comparative advantages. In that context, we are encouraged by the ongoing partnership and cooperation between the AU and the United Nations, as recently witnessed in the cases of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the African Union Mission in Somalia, as well as continued cooperation between the AU Commission and United Nations Secretariat.

The issue of flexible, predictable and sustainable resources for peacekeeping operations, especially as it relates to the African continent, is critical to peacekeeping. With the evolving complexity of modern peacekeeping, it is important to recognize the leading role that the African Union has played over recent years in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the continent, in line with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Through various subregional and regional efforts, including in Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the AU has shown how peacekeeping operations support the political settlement of disputes. All of that has happened despite the limited resources at the Union's disposal.

Clearly, for those AU efforts to work and to contribute towards robust and successful United Nations peacekeeping operations, we need to seriously consider the issue of flexible, predictable and sustainable resources. In that regard, South Africa is encouraged by the Prodi report (see S/2008/813) and its recommendations, in particular its focus on the need for a strategic relationship and stronger coordination between the AU and United Nations. We hope that he report of the Secretary-General to be submitted in September will go beyond the recommendations outlined in the Prodi report and provide political space for advancing options for the financing of AU peacekeeping missions, including through assessed contributions.

The Secretariat non-paper makes the important observation that peacekeeping is not always the right answer. My delegation concurs with that view and would agree that mediation and the peaceful settlement of disputes is far more cost-effective in terms of both resources and human life and should always be the first, best option to peacekeeping deployment. That would require that the United Nations re-energize its

political machinery with full capacity and work hand in glove with regional and subregional organizations, focusing especially on enhancing early warning capacities.

Our experience in the AU is that, with the establishment of the Peace and Security Council and the subregional initiatives mandated by the AU, we have utilized mediation to show that regional efforts are crucial to address regional conflicts. Subregional organizations, such as the Southern African Development Community, continue to deploy their mediation efforts in the resolution of conflicts in Zimbabwe and Madagascar. In that regard, regional and subregional organizations have a crucial role to play and have comparative advantage, mostly due to proximity. All our efforts have been anchored in the United Nations Charter, particularly Chapter VI, Article 33. Thus, mediation has become more important than ever before.

Recognizing the challenges of multidimensional integrated peacekeeping, South Africa supports efforts to effectively link peacekeeping with broad peacebuilding strategies. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes, closely synchronized with the implementation of security sector reform (SSR), have become indispensable pillars of effective peacebuilding and also contribute to sustainable post-conflict reconstruction. However, we believe that the need for multidimensional peacekeeping operations should be viewed against the need for peacekeeping to focus on its core business.

In that regard, my delegation wishes to reiterate that peacekeeping operations must be in consonance with the principles and purposes enshrined in the United Nations Charter. The principles of the consent of parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence, a clear and robust mandate and impartiality must be faithfully adhered to. The emphasis should also be on making full use of political processes and integrated functions, instead of a military function alone. In that way, a peacekeeping mission can help to maintain long-term goals in maintaining peace and security in its task area.

South Africa also feels strongly that a robust mandate in peacekeeping should at all times ensure the adequate protection of human and humanitarian rights, the protection of women and children in armed conflict and the protection of civilians, and should act resolutely against the perpetrators of rape and other forms of sexual violence against civilians. There must also be strict adherence to the policy of zero tolerance vis-à-vis United Nations peacekeepers.

In conclusion, we remain convinced that peacekeeping is not an easy task and cannot be an end in itself. It has to be a tool towards the creation of better conditions for sustainable development and good governance. We will argue for an integrated approach that incorporates peacebuilding during the start-up of a peacekeeping operation. Those arrangements, in our view, could facilitate a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and might serve as a stimulus for participation in DDR and SSR in the post-conflict period.

Finally, my delegation would like to reiterate its firm support for the cause of peacekeeping. We assure everyone of our cooperation in that regard. We will continue to work with others in taking concrete measures that advance global peace and stability.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. Arguello (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): First, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your endeavours as President of the Security Council for the month of August and to thank you, above all, for convening this open debate on a subject to which my country attaches great importance. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate to you and, through you, to the other members of the Security Council the need for the Council to hold frequent open meetings so as to allow all Members of the Organization to express their opinions and to interact with the Council members.

Likewise, I would like to thank Ms. Susana Malcorra and Mr. Alain Le Roy for their briefings this morning, which we followed with great attention.

The United Nations is the foundation of the international collective security system, which, as stated in the Preamble of the Charter, was established to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and, to that end, to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security. However, to mitigate the non-functioning of the mechanisms intended to carry out that purpose it was necessary to create peacekeeping operations.

Since 1948, peacekeeping operations have become one of the Organization's most effective tools for fulfilling its mandate, which is why my country considers that, in their various forms, they continue to be a valid and essential tool to maintain and strengthen international peace and security. At the same time, we believe that, ultimately, the Organization's success will be proved the day its presence, in particular through the deployment of peacekeeping operations, is no longer necessary.

Mindful of that objective, my country particularly values the efforts being made in various areas of the Organization to strengthen its capacity to deploy peacekeeping operations as well as to improve the coordination of activities on the ground. Likewise, my country believes that the French-British initiative regarding the Council and the concepts set out in the New Horizon non-paper contribute valuable elements for consideration in the debate on the future of peacekeeping operations.

There is a consensus among States Members of the Organization regarding the need to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to advance peacekeeping operations. There is also agreement that peacekeeping operations are not and cannot be a sole solution applicable to all conflict situations.

If the Organization is to be more effective in its action, we must refine the tools that we have been using for the past 50 years. We must incorporate elements that will enable us to more precisely measure progress in the implementation of mandates. What is more, we must establish peacekeeping operations with a clear plan setting out successive stages that will enable us to lay the groundwork for an exit strategy and avoid precipitous withdrawal, which could oblige us to return later and remain indefinitely on the ground. We must act bearing in mind the need to strengthen local institutions so that local authorities can assume responsibility for their own security at the appropriate time.

Here, it is important to recognize the fact that, nearly 10 years after it was issued, the Brahimi report (S/2000/809) remains valid. We should recall that among its principal recommendations is the necessity that mandates be appropriate and realistic and that they include provisions for the security of personnel and civilians, with solid rules of engagement.

Sufficient financing for operations and the centrality of training of personnel continue to be absolutely essential factors. In that regard, I wish to emphasize that, in Argentina at the national level, we have two training centres for personnel participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations — one for police officers and the other for military personnel. Likewise, in 2007, convinced of the need to strengthen cooperation in the training of personnel participating in peacekeeping operations, we established a network in the region comprising the training centres of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru and Uruguay.

In addition, my country believes that in order to improve the effectiveness of United Nations action, it is necessary to improve the communication and coordination between the members of the Security Council, who formulate the mandates of peacekeeping operations, and the Secretariat and the troop- and police-contributing countries, which must carry out those mandates on the ground.

Argentina is a member of the Group of Friends of Haiti, together with other countries in the region and various members of the Council. The Group of Friends of Haiti is a clear example of the importance of this kind of informal mechanisms. By considering the draft resolutions that, inter alia, renew the mandate of the mission in Haiti, the Group helps to maintain the support of Member States for the mission, ensuring both the continuity of efforts and the unity of objectives.

Permit me to conclude by highlighting the fact that in 2008 my country celebrated 50 years of uninterrupted participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Currently, nearly 900 troops deployed in six missions throughout the world continue to demonstrate Argentina's clear commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The President: I now call on the representative of Nigeria.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): I thank you, Mr. President, and the delegation of the United Kingdom for initiating this timely discussion on United Nations peacekeeping operations and for the valuable ideas and insights contained in the concept paper. Under-Secretaries-General Mr. Alain Le Roy and Ms. Susana Malcorra and General Martin Agwai have enriched the debate with their invaluable statements, and we are grateful to them.

Representing a major troop contributor with an unflinching commitment to United Nations peacekeeping, the Nigerian delegation welcomes the intensified and concerted efforts to address the major challenges confronting United Nations peacekeeping operations. We appreciate the efforts of the Security Council towards sustained dialogue, oversight and evaluation with regard to peacekeeping operations. We also acknowledge the New Horizon non-paper, an insightful and reflective work calling for further appraisal and the unrelenting engagement of all stakeholders.

The Nigerian delegation believes that reform of United Nations peacekeeping is inevitable, given its rapid expansion, complexity and multidimensional scope. However, such reform must be anchored in concrete actions that address the problems of inadequate logistics, lack of political will and insufficient funding. It must also address gaps in mandates, fluid exit strategies and the imprecise relationship among the troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council.

Indeed, the protection and welfare of peacekeepers should be at the core of such efforts. Even more significant, reform must preserve the fundamental guiding principles on the basis of which peacekeeping, as a tool for the preservation of international peace and security, was developed.

Nigeria underscores the importance of enhanced and transparent triangular cooperation among the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries (TCCs) and the Secretariat. While the responsibility for planning and mandating operations lies with the Council, the TCCs must be active participants in the planning, review, drawdown and closure of operations. Indeed, they should be involved in the determination and review of mandates.

Today, it has become increasingly necessary to broaden the base of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In that regard, my delegation believes that Member States should not only cultivate, but also demonstrate, greater political will to share the burden of peacekeeping operations, particularly the provision of logistics and personnel.

Peacekeeping and peacebuilding are coterminous. As the Council mandates a peacekeeping operation, it should also establish a peacebuilding mission as a vital component of a well-conceived exit strategy. No less critical is the strengthening of international, regional and local conflict resolution mechanisms, particularly the mediation mechanism advocated in the Prodi report. Indeed, peacekeeping must be complemented by predictable funding, unrelenting political bargaining and social and economic reconstruction. The reform efforts should also be directed at strengthening the relationship between the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and other subregional bodies on the continent.

Nigeria unequivocally supports the protection of civilians in all peacekeeping situations and calls for the provision of adequate logistics capacity, including air power and information, to discharge that responsibility effectively.

Perhaps the time is ripe for a robust approach to United Nations peacekeeping. Robust peacekeeping means more than an enforcement mandate under Chapter VII of the Charter. It implies the total and unimpeded commitment of resources and a credible demonstration of political will to ensure the success of all operations.

The President: I call next on the representative of Thailand.

Mrs. Chaimongkol (Thailand): Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, upon your assumption of the Council presidency for the month of August and for convening this timely debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations. My appreciation also goes to your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Uganda, for his leadership as the President of the Council for the month of July.

The debate today is very important and relevant, as United Nations peacekeeping operations are at present facing many critical challenges, having to do more with less while operating in conflicts whose natures and environments are changing rapidly and becoming more demanding.

My delegation would like to thank Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and Ms. Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, for their comprehensive briefings today and for the non-paper "A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for United Nations Peacekeeping", which highlights a number of important points and provides valuable recommendations for Member States to deliberate. My

delegation would also like to thank General Martin Luther Agwai, Force Commander of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, for his insightful briefing today and for his leadership on the ground.

Thailand associates itself with the statement made by the delegation of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few points that, we believe, merit serious consideration.

First, there is a strong need to establish a better and more effective coordinating system within the United Nations system for peacekeeping operations. Thailand is of the view that regular and inclusive dialogue between the Council and relevant stakeholders, especially the troop-contributing countries (TCCs), before and throughout the deployment process — from the drafting of the mandate to the exit and termination of the operation — is necessary to ensure credibility of a mandate and success of a peacekeeping operation. Thailand appreciates the effort of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, led by Japan, to reach out and seek views of various stakeholders on the current state of peacekeeping operations.

Secondly, Thailand supports the ongoing evolution of peacekeeping towards an operation more integrated in outlook and mandate, which would enable operations to effectively combine both peacekeeping and peacebuilding elements and bridge the critical gap between cessation of fighting and durable peace. In this connection, there should be greater emphasis on sustainable peace, security and development as well as on national ownership, with a clear strategy for a seamless transition.

United Nations peacekeeping can contribute tremendously to the early recovery of a country in the aftermath of conflict. Capitalizing on its presence in the early stage of a peace process, it can help to bring about safety and security, support political processes and energize economic recovery, which will lead to a quick and smooth transition into the peacebuilding phase. Early engagement in peacebuilding activity is a window of opportunity to restore livelihoods, create an atmosphere of trust and confidence and bring about sustainable peace. In short, peacekeepers can be early peacebuilders.

Thirdly, effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations are vital. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations should be mutually reinforcing to achieve a win-win situation for all partners. In many cases, regional organizations have comparative advantages and better understanding of challenges in their respective regions. The United Nations could help strengthen the capacity of regional organizations so that they can better support the United Nations peacekeeping operations in their regions.

The blue beret of United Nations peacekeepers has become an iconic image of the United Nations in the eyes of peoples around the world. The success and dedication of courageous men and women under the United Nations flag in various conflict zones have given the ideals and principles of the United Nations Charter a real and tangible meaning.

Thailand — as a strong and consistent supporter of United Nations peacekeeping for decades and as a country that has put our peacekeepers under the United Nations flag in various missions — has a stake in the evolution and reform of United Nations peacekeeping. Therefore we will closely and with interest follow the discussions on this issue, on various tracks, and look forward to actively contributing to the process.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Ovales-Santos (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this debate on peacekeeping operations.

Our delegation associates itself with the statement made earlier on this issue on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Venezuela would like to highlight some aspects that have already been mentioned but which are nonetheless important and essential for the preservation of the credibility and legitimacy of an instrument set out in the United Nations Charter for international peace and security.

First of all, United Nations peacekeeping operations must not be a substitute by which to avoid the need to address the real causes of conflicts. On various occasions, international conflicts are fermented by actors whose interests are foreign to those of the parties involved, interests certainly linked to the real powers running the global industrial war machine.

For the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it is essential that in conducting peacekeeping operations, the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter be strictly observed and that peacekeeping be guided by its basic principles: the consent of the parties involved, non-use of force except in legitimate defence, and impartiality. The introduction of the concept of defence in the mandate should not be placed on the same level as that of the three guiding principles, as its application is limited to operational and tactical levels.

We also agree with NAM's understanding concerning respect for the principles of sovereignty, political independence and the territorial integrity of all States and non-interference in matters that are essentially of internal jurisdiction. Such understanding must be maintained. We also agree with the Movement that United Nations peacekeeping operations must from the outset enjoy the necessary support in terms of resources. They especially need credibility in the authorized mandates, which depends on their clarity and feasibility.

We are convinced of the need to unify all initiatives and processes to ensure continuity in one coherent direction towards peace.

Lastly, like other delegations, we believe that the role of the committee is extremely important. Here it is essential that the recommendations and measures adopted by the General Assembly and its Special Committee charged with reviewing all aspects of peacekeeping operations have a greater impact in the Security Council and the Secretariat, which will benefit the collective goals needed to achieve peace.

The President: I give the floor to our final speaker, the Permanent Representative of Nepal.

Mr. Acharya (Nepal): As the last speaker, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month and to welcome your initiative on this timely debate on peacekeeping operations. I would also like to thank the Under-Secretaries-General, Mr. Le Roy and Ms. Malcorra, for their valuable presentations on the subject this morning.

As a troop-contributing country, Nepal attaches strong significance to matters related to peacekeeping operations, especially the strengthening of operational and managerial efficiency in the context of the challenges and strains presented by the increasingly complex environments that these operations are facing.

Peacekeeping is a dynamic concept and a tool for maintaining international peace and security and resolving conflicts, as well as a strategy for filling gaps in failed or failing States and transitional societies. The current practice of doctrine, mandating, budgeting for and supporting peacekeeping operations and their links to peacebuilding clearly needs a strategic review. In this context, we welcome the New Horizon and Support Strategy non-papers as the fastest steps towards discussion and building broader consensus on the way forward to effective, efficient and prudent peacekeeping operations.

Peacekeeping is an endeavour carried out in partnership among the Security Council, finance and troop contributors, regional organizations and the host country. We are pleased that the new non-paper has been designated "A New Partnership Agenda". This presents a new opportunity to strengthen peacekeeping operations in the face of new challenges, especially since a comprehensive review was made as recently as 2000 in the Brahimi report (S/2000/809). Some of the core recommendations of that report — concerning, inter alia, the need for political support and strategic direction, rapid deployment and standby arrangements, operational planning and support, the need for robust doctrine, realistic mandates and practical rules of engagement, improved mission guidance and leadership and the need to involve troop-contributing countries in important decisions — are still valid and should continue to be implemented even in the face of current challenges.

Similarly, the steps outlined in Peace Operations 2010 — especially in the five key areas of personnel, doctrine, partnerships, resources and organization — remain important and should be implemented.

It is a fact that even after 60 years of experience, we are conducting every peacekeeping mission from scratch, dealing with each mission separately, giving each a separate budget and having to jump over the same old hurdles each time. This situation can certainly be improved with streamlined, anticipatory budgeting, operational flexibility between different missions and broadened planning horizons for existing and new missions.

Peacekeeping cannot succeed without meaningful engagement and involvement of troop- and police-

contributing countries every step of the way, including in planning, mandating and determining political strategy. Troop contributors should be given operational flexibility and involvement in developing rules of engagement according to individual situations.

The increasing demands of deployment experienced by troop contributors, particularly with regard to the complex logistical requirements of contingent-owned equipment, could be remedied by providing to the troop contributors support for contingent equipment and training. Missions should also be equipped with matching resources, commensurate with the tasks in the field. Mandates should be clear, unambiguous and achievable.

The transition from peacekeeping and peacebuilding to socio-economic development is very important. We welcome the recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/304), which highlights key challenges in peacebuilding, including the need for national ownership, international leadership and coherent support and delivery. The same should apply to peacekeeping operations as well. There is a need to improve recruitment and retention of qualified people in order to reduce the high vacancy rates in missions, as well as the modalities of partnerships with regional organizations. While the current practice of holding thematic debates on issues such as the protection of women and children, the protection of civilians, rule of law, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform, transitional justice and the role of regional cooperation is important, these subjects cannot be treated in isolation and should be built into a comprehensive strategy.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that during the review process, the core values of United Nations peacekeeping operations — such as adherence to the Charter, consent of the parties, non-interference in the affairs of sovereign States, non-use of force except in self-defence, and security and safety of personnel — should be strictly applied. Such principles should not be compromised even in the context of robust peacekeeping operations.

The President: I thank all those who have contributed to this very full debate today. Thank you very much for your participation and above all for the continued attendance and focus that the Under-Secretaries-General have applied throughout the day.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following rather long statement on behalf of the Council. I quote:

> "The Security Council reaffirms the recommendations made in its resolutions 1327 (2000) and 1353 (2001) and in the statements of its President dated 3 May 1994 (S/PRST/1994/22), 4 November 1994 (S/PRST/1994/62), 28 March 1996 (S/PRST/1996/13), 31 January 2001 (S/PRST/2001/3) and 17 May 2004 (S/PRST/2004/16) and the note by its President of 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56) and confirms its intention to strengthen further efforts to implement fully these recommendations. The Council recalls in particular from its statement of its President of 3 May 1994 the appropriate factors that should be taken into account when the establishment of a new peacekeeping operation is under consideration.
>
> "The Security Council believes that United Nations peacekeeping is a unique global partnership that draws together the contributions and commitment of the entire United Nations system. The Council is committed to strengthening this partnership. The Council recognizes the important work conducted by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the United Nations Secretariat to ensure that peacekeeping efforts provide the best possible results.
>
> "The Security Council has endeavoured in the past six months to improve its dialogue with the Secretariat and with troop- and police-contributing countries on the collective oversight of peacekeeping operations and to develop the following practices:
>
> (i) Regular dialogue with the Secretariat on the general challenges of peacekeeping;
>
> (ii) Efforts to deepen consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries, including through the Security Council's Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and the debates organized on 23 January and 29 June 2009;

(iii) Organization of political-military meetings on specific operations to improve the shared analysis of operational challenges;

(iv) Encouraging regular updating of planning documents by the Secretariat to ensure consistency with mandates;

(v) Improved monitoring and evaluation, through the use of benchmarks, as and where appropriate, that enable progress to be charted against a comprehensive and integrated strategy.

"The Security Council has identified several areas where further reflection is required to improve the preparation, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and completion of peacekeeping operations:

(i) Ensuring that mandates for peacekeeping operations are clear, credible and achievable and matched by appropriate resources. The Council stresses the need regularly to assess, in consultation with other stakeholders, the strength, mandate and composition of peacekeeping operations with a view to making the necessary adjustments where appropriate, according to progress achieved or changing circumstances on the ground;

(ii) Better information sharing, particularly on the military operational challenges, through, inter alia, systematic consultation by the Secretariat with Member States in advance of deployment of a technical assessment mission on its objectives and broad parameters and debriefing on its main findings on return. The Council encourages the practice of holding meetings between Council members and the Secretariat at political-military expert level prior to discussion of mandate renewals. The Council recognizes the need to improve its access to military advice, and intends to pursue its work on mechanisms to that effect. The Council will continue to review the role of the Military Staff Committee;

(iii) The Council intends to increase its interaction with the Secretariat in the early phase of mandate drafting and throughout mission deployment on the military, police, justice, rule of law and peacebuilding dimensions of an operation;

(iv) Earlier and more meaningful engagement with troop- and police-contributing countries before the renewal or modification of the mandate of a peacekeeping operation. The Council welcomes practical suggestions to deepen such consultations. It recognizes that through their experience and expertise, troop- and police-contributing countries can greatly contribute to effective planning, decision-making and deployment of peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Council welcomes the interim report of the Security Council Working Group (S/2009/398) and encourages it to continue to address the issue of cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries and other stakeholders. The Council commits to making progress on this issue, and to reviewing its progress in 2010;

(v) Greater awareness in the Security Council of the resource and field support implications of its decisions. The Council requests that where a new peacekeeping mission is proposed, or where significant change to a mandate is envisaged, an estimate of the resource implications for the mission be provided to it;

(vi) Enhanced awareness in the Security Council of the strategic challenges faced across peacekeeping operations. The Council welcomes the briefings to that effect received from the Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support since January 2009, which should continue on a regular basis.

"The Council recognizes the need to weigh the full range of responses when addressing a situation which may endanger international peace and security, and to deploy United Nations peacekeeping missions only as an accompaniment, not as an alternative, to a political strategy. The Council recognizes the importance of mobilizing and maintaining the political and operational support of all stakeholders.

"The Security Council recognizes the urgent need to increase the pool of available troop and police contributors and welcomes efforts of Member States to coordinate bilateral assistance to them. The Council supports efforts to improve cooperation and coordination through the life of a mission with relevant regional and subregional organizations and other partners. The Council recognizes the priority of strengthening the capacity of the African Union, and the role of regional and subregional organizations, in maintaining international peace and security in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

"The Security Council welcomes efforts by the Secretariat to review peacekeeping operations and to provide enhanced planning and support, and encourages the Secretariat to deepen these efforts. In this regard, the Council takes note of the assessments and recommendations provided in their non-paper 'A New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for United Nations Peacekeeping' and the support strategy contained therein, and intends to give them careful consideration.

"The Security Council recognizes that further debate is required among Member States, including in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, to develop a wider consensus on a range of issues, including the robust approach to peacekeeping and the implementation of protection of civilians mandates. The Council reaffirms the relevant provisions of its resolution 1674 (2006), and in this regard, looks forward to reviewing the implementation of protection of civilians mandates later this year.

"The Security Council recalls the statement of its President of 22 July 2009 (S/PRST/2009/23) on peacebuilding and in particular re-emphasizes the need for coherence between, and integration of, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development to achieve an effective response to post-conflict situations from the outset. The Council requests the Secretary-General to provide in his reports on specific missions an indication of progress towards achieving a coordinated United Nations approach in-country, and in particular on critical gaps to achieving peacebuilding objectives alongside the mission.

"The Security Council remains committed to improving further the overall performance of United Nations peacekeeping and will conduct a further review in early 2010."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2009/24.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6179

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6179th meeting

Friday, 7 August 2009, 10.15 a.m.
New York

President:	Sir John Sawers	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Tiendrébéogo
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Guillermet
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Japan	Mr. Okuda
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lukiyantsev
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United States of America	Ms. Germain
	Viet Nam	Mr. Bui The Giang

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1830 (2008) (S/2009/393)

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09-44835 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1830 (2008) (S/2009/393)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Iraq, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al Bayati (Iraq) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/2009/406, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish also to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/2009/393, containing the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1830 (2008).

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Austria, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Russian Federation, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1883 (2009).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.